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MEMORIAL ADDRESSES

LIFE AND CHARACTER

OF

ALPHEUS S. WILLIAMS

FEBRUARY 20TH AND 21ST 1879.

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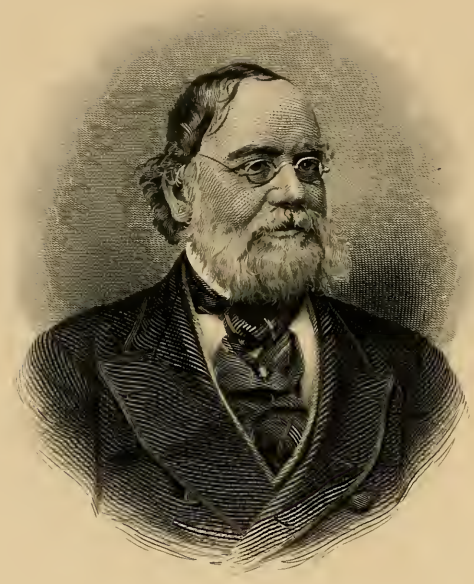

A. S. Williams.

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TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

MEMORIAL ADDRESSES

ON THE

LIFE AND CHARACTER

OF

ALPHEUS S. WILLIAMS,

(A REPRESENTATIVE FROM MICHIGAN,)

DELIVERED IN THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND IN THE SENATE,
FORTY-FIFTH CONGRESS, THIRD SESSION.

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FORTY-FIFTH CONGRESS, THIRD SESSION.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, *February* 27, 1879.

Resolved by the House of Representatives (*the Senate concurring*), That there be printed twelve thousand copies of the memorial addresses delivered in the Senate and House of Representatives upon the life and character of the late ALPHEUS S. WILLIAMS, late a Representative from the State of Michigan, of which nine thousand shall be for the use of the House and three thousand for the use of the Senate.

Attest:

GEO. M. ADAMS, *Clerk.*

AN ACT providing for the engraving and printing of portraits to accompany memorial addresses on the late Representatives Leonard, Quinn, Welch, Williams, Douglas, Hartridge, and Schleicher.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to cause to be engraved and printed portraits of the late Representatives Leonard, Quinn, Welch, Williams, Douglas, Hartridge, and Schleicher, to accompany memorial addresses delivered in the Senate and House of Representatives in honor of the said deceased Representatives, and to defray the expenses thereof the necessary sum is hereby appropriated out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, such sum to be immediately available.

Approved, March 3, 1879.

ADDRESSES

ON THE

DEATH OF ALPHEUS S. WILLIAMS.

PROCEEDINGS IN THE HOUSE.

JANUARY 6, 1879.

Mr. HUBBELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to perform one of the most melancholy duties which has fallen to my lot since my entrance into public life. It is to announce the death of my late colleague, Hon. ALPHEUS S. WILLIAMS, of Michigan. At some future time I shall give notice when appropriate resolutions of eulogy will be submitted for the action of the House. I offer now the following:

Resolved, That this House has heard with deep regret of the death of Hon. ALPHEUS S. WILLIAMS, a Representative from the State of Michigan.

Resolved, That as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased this House do now adjourn.

The SPEAKER. The Chair will submit the question on these resolutions.

The resolutions were unanimously adopted; and in accordance therewith the House (at three o'clock p. m.) adjourned.

JANUARY 7, 1879.

The SPEAKER, by unanimous consent, laid before the House the following letter from the secretary of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of the order adopted by the Commissioners of the District of Columbia respecting the late Hon. A. S. WILLIAMS; which was laid on the table and ordered to be printed:

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
Washington, December 23, 1878.

SIR: I am directed by the Commissioners of the District of Columbia to inclose to you the accompanying copy of their order of this date respecting the late Hon. A. S. WILLIAMS, chairman of the Committee on the District of Columbia, House of Representatives.

Very repectfully,

WILLIAM TINDALL,
Secretary.

Hon. SAMUEL J. RANDALL,
Speaker of the House of Representatives, United States.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
Washington, December 23, 1878.

As a just tribute to the memory of the Hon. ALPHEUS S. WILLIAMS, late a Representative of the State of Michigan in the Congress of the United States, and chairman of the Committee of the House of Representatives on the District of Columbia, who expired in this city on the 21st instant, the Commissioners deem it fit, on behalf of the people of the District, to put upon their minutes the following order:

That the citizens of the District of Columbia hold in grateful remembrance the just, generous, and patiotic consideration extended at all times by General WILLIAMS, as chairman of the District Committee, to the best interests of this District, and his kind and graceful courtesy to its citizens. His career as a soldier and civilian is part of the history of his country; his many private virtues are the consoling heritage of his family and friends.

That the secretary be directed to transmit a copy of this order to the family of the deceased and to the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

By order of the Board.

S. L. PHELPS,
President.

WILLIAM TINDALL,
Secretary.

FEBRUARY 19, 1879.

Mr. HUBBELL. On the 6th instant I gave notice that at some future time I should ask the House to listen to the eulogies on my late colleague, General A S. WILLIAMS. I now ask unanimous consent that there be a session to-morrow evening at seven o'clock and thirty minutes for that purpose.

There was no objection, and it was so ordered.

FEBRUARY 20, 1879.

Mr. HUBBELL. I offer the resolutions which I send to the desk.

The Clerk read as follows:

Resolved, That this House has heard with deep regret of the death of Hon. ALPHEUS S. WILLIAMS, a member of this House from the State of Michigan.

Resolved, That as a testimony of respect to his memory the officers and members of this House will wear the usual badge of mourning for the space of thirty days.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted by the Clerk of this House to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That the Clerk be directed to communicate a copy of these proceedings to the Senate, and that as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased this House do now adjourn.

Address of Mr. Hubbell, of Michigan.

Mr. Speaker: I rise to perform a solemn and painful duty; to announce the death and pay a humble tribute of respect to the memory of my late colleague, Hon. Alpheus S. Williams, who died at his residence in this city on Saturday, the 20th day of December last.

Time will not permit, nor am I competent to the task of pronouncing a fitting eulogy on the life and character of this most distinguished citizen of my native State; and I shall therefore content myself with a very imperfect sketch of his life and public services, with the hope that some one more ready in speech than I may fitly commemorate his character and virtues.

Alpheus S. Williams was born at Saybrook, Connecticut, September 20, 1810. On both father's and mother's side he came from the good old Puritan stock. The Starkeys, the Williamses, and the Pratts (among the earliest settlers of Saybrook) were men of note in the early days of the colonies.

In 1827 he entered Yale College, and after graduating studied law under the venerable Judge Daggett. Fond of travel, he visited every State in the Union, extending his journeys to the then Mexican province of Texas. In 1834 he traveled through Europe in company with his early friend, the late tragedian, Edwin Forrest, until the summer of 1836, when he settled in Detroit, Michigan, of which State he continued a resident until his death.

As judge of probate for four years, as one of the city council, as editor of the Detroit Advertiser (now the Daily Post and Tribune), he was usefully and honorably connected with civic affairs until 1847,

when he went to Mexico with the First Michigan Volunteers as lieutenant-colonel of that regiment, and served with distinction from Vera Cruz to the City of Mexico. Returning home he was made major-general of the State militia.

From 1849 to 1853 he was postmaster of the city of Detroit, and a member of the State board of education from 1856 to 1857. During all this time his connection with the old Brady Guards, and afterward the Light Guards, of Detroit, not only evidenced his love of and aptitude for military affairs, but helped to educate many brave men who, in their turn, when the war of the rebellion broke out, aided to educate and lead the Michigan regiments that went to the field. In 1861 he was commissioned as brigadier-general and took command in the Shenandoah campaign, succeeding General Banks as commander of the Twelfth Army Corps. His masterly retreat during that Virginia campaign takes rank as one of the noteworthy incidents of the war. History has chronicled his achievements as commander of the Twelfth Corps in the bloody battles of South Mountain, Antietam, and Gettysburgh, and also when in command of a division of the Twentieth Army Corps in that famous campaign which ended in the capture of Atlanta, that memorable campaign of "a hundred days under fire." In this campaign his corps was the first to enter Atlanta and was placed in charge of the city.

In the famous march from Atlanta to the sea he was a trusted commander, and it was upon his wisdom, prudence, and forethought that the great leader of that historic expedition largely depended; and it was due as much to his soldierly genius as to that of any other one man that the campaign was finally brought to a successful and glorious termination. He was among the first to enter Savannah, and on his march from that city to Goldsborough did some of the hardest fighting of the campaign.

After participating in the grand review in Washington at the close of the war, he was sent to Gainesville, Kentucky, and afterwards

placed in command of a military district in Arkansas, where his genius for affairs served to bring order out of chaos and to restore the society of that region to its normal condition. In June, 1866, he was honorably discharged from the Army.

I have thus briefly epitomized a military career to which volumes might be devoted, and which history must record as among the most glorious of that immortal few whose achievements fill the brightest pages of American history. Throughout his long and arduous service, which began with the beginning of the war and ended only when the final surrender was made, he never was taken by surprise, lost a battle, or suffered a defeat. The estimation in which he was held by his companions in arms cannot be better illustrated than by reading a letter addressed by the General of the Army to Major Farquhar, son-in-law of General WILLIAMS, on the occasion of the latter's death:

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY,
Washington, D. C., December 22, 1878.

DEAR MAJOR: I am just returned from attending the funeral of your father-in-law, General ALPHEUS S. WILLIAMS, member of Congress, of Michigan, where I met his daughter, Mrs. Chittenden, and his son, as also Mr. Chittenden and other friends and a committee of the House of Representatives, who will accompany his remains to his home at Detroit. We of the military did all we could to manifest the great respect we had for his character as an officer by ordering all the soldiers now near Washington to attend as a guard of honor from his rooms to the train which bears his body to its final resting-place in Detroit, and I also personally attended with every member of my staff in uniform. But this does not complete the debt I owe to General WILLIAMS as a soldier and a patriot; and to you, his son-in-law, I venture to do more, because you as a soldier appreciate the feelings appropriate to the occasion. I will have prepared, engrossed on parchment for his family, the official record of his service in the Mexican war and of that greater war of a national salvation in which General WILLIAMS bore so conspicuous and manly a part. This military record may seem to you and to his family too formal, too short to compass a life which spanned sixty-eight of the most eventful years of the world's history, and may sound too much like Hamlet's moralizing on Alexander: "Alexander died; Alexander was buried; Alexander returned unto dust." And as I know full well that the feelings of those nearest him demand something more personal, more specific, I must, at the risk of being officious, write you more of my own personal thoughts and appreciation.

General WILLIAMS commanded a division of the Twelfth Corps, which was sent so rapidly from the East to Tennessee under General Hooker to re-enforce the Army of the Cumberland after the battle of Chickamauga. I myself at that time was hurrying for the same object, from Memphis, with the Army of the Tennessee. The great battle was fought at Chattanooga, and then were made the combinations for the final critical campaign of our civil war. The Eleventh and Twelfth Corps were consolidated into the Twentieth Corps, commanded by General Hooker, with General A. S. WILLIAMS commanding the first division of that corps, and the senior division commander in that corps. In May, 1864, I succeeded General U. S. Grant in command of the grand army designed to advance into the enemy's country from that quarter, and was most fortunate in my command in having such men as WILLIAMS in command of the fighting divisions. Up to that date we were absolute strangers, but my personal acquaintance then began and ripened into a friendship which was close and mutual to the day of his death. To recount his services during the eventful years of 1864 and 1865 would require a minute history of all the operations of that army, for General WILLIAMS participated in every movement and every battle from Chattanooga till the close of the war, always in command of a division, and of his whole corps on the capture of Atlanta, and up to Goldsborough, North Carolina, a period of eight months; always most active and eminently qualified by nature and experience. He had the love and respect of his command eminent degree, and like his prototype, General Thomas, the soldiers styled him "Pap WILLIAMS."

Though eminently an officer of action, he had the patience and affability of manners which won the love and veneration of his men. Frequently in our long, weary marches I rode by his side, and was often delighted with his cheerful disposition and love of wit. On one occasion he told me that in a certain Wisconsin regiment of his were some Winnebago Indians; that in passing the regiment he inquired of one of them what he thought of our march below Atlanta into Georgia. "Ugh, a big hunt," was the reply. At a later day, after we had passed Richmond, Virginia, I found General WILLIAMS dismounted in a clover-field. He had gathered in his hand a cluster of the white-clover blossoms of early spring (May, 1865), and holding it up to me, he said: "Thank God, we have got back to a land of civilization." I inquired wherefore, and he said: "You can't have civilization without good milk, and you can't have good milk without white clover."

I am sure that his staff officers and his soldiers will supply his family with many testimonials of their love for him; and the purpose of this letter is to assure you and those who will treasure his memory that, apart from the consideration and respect we all feel for the general, he held a surer place in our hearts and affection. Our numbers are growing less daily, and soon the names and fame of the actors in the great drama of our civil war must pass into the keeping of younger men like yourself; and I bid you to remember that your children are those of General ALPHEUS S. WILLIAMS, who offered his precious life and his great abilities to rescue from the greatest possible danger the precious legacy of a government designed for their honor and safety; and I trust that you will tell them of his glori-

ous career and associations and make his example to them a shining light which will lead them to imitate his virtues.

Now that he is among the dead, the best of his surviving comrades will labor that his kindly nature, coupled with his heroic action in battle, shall be known and appreciated.

Truly, your friend,

W. T. SHERMAN, *General.*

Major FRANCIS U. FARQUHAR,
United States Engineers, Rock Island, Illinois.

All who knew him as a soldier bear testimony to the truth of the estimate thus placed upon his character by the great general whose glory he shared. All his companions in arms, whether officers or soldiers, bear uniform testimony to the geniality and kindness of his nature, as manifested by his uniform courtesy to his equals, and the loving and fatherly care which he ever took of his inferiors in rank. He held no stilted command nor plumed himself upon the dignity of his position. At the camp-fire and on the march, at the mess and on the battle-field, to his staff and to his soldiers, he was the valued comrade as well as the chief, always mindful of their wants, and guarding them from needless exposure and danger. His men loved him with a constant, unvarying affection, and trusted him with never-failing confidence. They knew him to be as sagacious as he was brave, as cautious as he was bold, as wise in council as he was gallant in action. He bore his high command with the modesty of a true soldier and the ability of a great general. He possessed that wonderful prescience that is the inspiration of the soldier born to command; in action he was quick, prompt, and energetic, and he possessed the rare soldierly qualities that enabled him to hold a great army as well in hand as he did a division or a corps, and that still rarer faculty or instinct which never failed him in his choice of men for positions of trust and responsibility.

When his country no longer needed his military services he retired to his beautiful home in Detroit, and there, surrounded by a grateful

and loving people, whose patriot soldiers he had educated and led to glory and renown, he was well content to pass the remainder of his days in private life. But it was otherwise ordered. A few months later he was called upon by President Johnson to act as one of the commissioners to examine the war claims of the State of Missouri, and in the autumn of that year he was appointed minister resident to Salvador, where he resided during the three succeeding years. Returning home in December, 1869, he again sought the rest from official labor which his long and faithful service entitled him to expect; but in 1874 his fellow-citizens again called upon him to enter their service, and in the autumn of that year he was elected to a seat in this House.

Of his record in this body it is scarcely necessary for me to speak. All will bear swift witness to his unswerving fidelity to public trusts, his zealous regard for the interests of his constituents, and above all to his enlarged and statesmanlike views and lofty patriotism, which refused to be bound by the shackles of party or circumscribed by geographical lines. As a member of the Military Committee during the first term of his service he devoted himself to the interests of the soldier, and aided in framing wise statutes calculated to place the Army upon a just and honorable footing.

As chairman of the Committee for the District of Columbia he brought order out of confusion and honesty out of corruption. No man's gold stained his hand. No rings shackled his feet. He brought to the arduous duties of that position a simplicity of purpose that was transparent, a fidelity to duty that was unswerving, an enlarged understanding that enabled him to comprehend the necessities of the District, and a practical ability that enabled him to meet those necessities by wise legislation.

As to his personal qualities as developed in his intercourse with his fellow-members, all will bear loving testimony to the gentle amenities which characterized his daily walk and conversation.

Strong as were his convictions, and firm as he was of purpose, he never gave offense to those with whom he differed.

He was ambitious; but his ambition was not of the sort which prompted him to strive to attain other and higher positions than those allotted to him. It always made him strive to his utmost, and with becoming modesty, to fill all the requirements of the different positions which he occupied. His motto was to always and conscientiously do his whole duty; and it made no difference whether he was occupying the editor's chair, drilling his old Light Guards in the city of his adoption, or commanding a company, a regiment, a division, or an army corps, or still later serving his constituents in these halls, the man never did live and does not now live who had said or who will ever dare to say that ALPHEUS S. WILLIAMS failed to fearlessly perform his whole duty as he saw it, and without hope of reward.

It is fitting, then, that the virtues of such a man should be commemorated in this presence and with becoming ceremonies.

As a gentleman of fine culture and presence, as a private citizen of liberal views, imbued with that public spirit which always prompted him to devote to the welfare of his adopted city and State and to the well-being of his fellow-citizens a large share of his time and means; as a journalist, adorning a noble calling with talent and genius and with that native instinct for fair play which made him friends on every side, and disarmed his adversaries; as a legislator and statesman always daring to advocate the right and to maintain it by his vote, notwithstanding party ties, and without fear of the lash of party caucuses; and as a citizen soldier, cool in judgment amid the din and horrors of the deadly conflict, brave in battle, but generous in the hour of victory, his was a model character and worthy of imitation by the young men of the land.

Mr. Speaker, I had the honor, by your appointment, to be a member of the committee whose melancholy duty it was to bear the remains of our dead friend to the mourning city and State of his

adoption, and to deposit his ashes in their final resting-place. We have performed the sad duty. We found the great city clad in the habiliments of mourning and every preparation made to do honor to the illustrious dead. But how weak was the expression of these outward symbols of woe compared with tears of heartful sorrow which flowed unrestrained down the cheeks of thousands who in his death sustained a personal bereavement! It was a wild, bleak December day when we laid him to rest. But neither the biting cold nor the howling tempest prevented that sorrowing people from turning out *en masse* and paying the last tribute of respect to their dead friend.

Amid the quiet shades of the beautiful cemetery, surrounded by the forms of the loved ones who had gone before, he sleeps his last sleep while the tall pines which wave around him chant the sad requiem of the illustrious dead. Peace to his ashes, and fresh in the memory of a grateful people remain his many virtues.

Address of Mr. Banning, of Ohio.

Mr. Speaker: Alpheus Starkey Williams, to honor whose memory we are here assembled to-day, was one of the remarkable men of his time. Born at Saybrook, Connecticut, September 20, 1810, he departed this life at his post of duty at the national capital December 21, 1878, having attained the advanced age of sixty-eight years and three months.

Entering Yale College at the age of seventeen, he graduated with great credit in 1831, and pursued and completed the study of the law at the school attached to his *alma mater*.

Having thus laid at an early age broad and deep the foundation of culture and knowledge, he went abroad for two years, enriching his mind and enlarging his experience by travel in Europe.

On his return in 1836 he removed to the Territory of Michigan, settling at the city of Detroit, where he resided until the day of his decease.

Continuing the practice of his profession until 1840, he was in that year called to the bench, serving as judge of probate until 1844.

In 1843 he was chosen to represent his ward in the board of aldermen, and in 1844 was elected recorder of Detroit. Meanwhile in 1843 he had become proprietor of the Detroit Daily Advertiser, which he edited for five years. When the Mexican war broke out General WILLIAMS tendered his services to the government and served with great distinction as lieutenant-colonel of the First Regiment of Michigan Volunteers. In 1849 he was appointed postmaster of Detroit by President Taylor, and continued to hold that office during Mr. Fillmore's administration. In 1856 he was appointed a member of the Detroit board of education. In all these positions Generals WILLIAMS acquitted himself with credit and honor, winning the applause, esteem, and affection of his fellow-citizens. But, Mr. Speaker, however great and substantial were these achievements of our late colleague, they seem to have been but a training-school which was to fit him for those imperishable deeds which won for him a national reputation that will live as long as the traditions of the great republic which he helped to extend and to perpetuate.

When the late civil war began General WILLIAMS was more than fifty years of age, and might well have been spared the hardships and vicissitudes of the field. The thought of shirking duty or danger never entered his mind. At the very outset he was appointed major-general of the Michigan militia and president of the State military board, organizing the volunteers from that State and preparing them for active service. In August, 1861, he was appointed brigadier-general of volunteers by President Lincoln and assigned to duty on the Upper Potomac.

Subsequently he joined the Army of the Potomac, in which he com-

manded the Twelfth Army Corps at South Mountain, Antietam, and Gettysburg. Transferred to the Southwest in 1863, he commanded the Twentieth Corps at the siege of Atlanta and during the campaign in Georgia and the Carolinas, being mustered out of service January, 1866.

In August, 1866, he was appointed one of the commissioners to adjust the military claims of the State of Missouri, and in the fall of the same year was the candidate of the Democratic party for governor of Michigan. From December, 1866, to the end of President Johnson's administration he served as minister to the Republic of San Salvador. He was elected to the Forty-fourth Congress from the Detroit district, and re-elected to the Forty-fifth Congress.

Such in brief, Mr. Speaker, is the record of the public services of General WILLIAMS, and throughout them all is seen the distinguishing characteristic of the man, a conscientious and unselfish devotion to duty. Upon this record rests not a single stain or blemish.

My personal acquaintance with General WILLIAMS began in the spring of 1862 in the Shenandoah Valley, where we served together for a brief period in the same command. We served together again during the Atlanta campaign, when we separated to meet once more in this Hall when General WILLIAMS took his seat in the Forty-fourth Congress.

It was my good fortune, Mr. Speaker, to serve with General WILLIAMS on the Committee on Military Affairs of that Congress, and our acquaintance ripened rapidly into a friendship sundered only by his death. He was a most valuable member of that committee. Endowed by nature with a strong intellect, carefully educated in youth, and trained by long use in positions of high responsibility, and with a heart filled with generous impulses, he was quick to grasp the real merits of every question presented for solution. While always careful to search out the law of each case, he gave due weight to the equities involved; and while anxious to do every justice to the indi-

vidual, he was equally careful of the interest of the public. Hence his views were of inestimable value, and his influence in committee marked and wholesome.

In him the friendless or unfortunate always found an advocate, while fraud and corruption, however powerful, found in him a firm foe. Although a man of impulses, he was never perceptibly swayed by prejudice, and never pronounced a judgment but after careful scrutiny had made him familiar with the merits of the case. Though slow to make up his mind on matters of importance, he was quick to act and tenacious of purpose. Having once formed an opinion, he was proof against the arts of persuasion, although ready to change his mind upon new evidence.

General WILLIAMS was eminently practical in his views and direct in his purposes. He was upright and conscientious in every walk of life, public and private. Genial and kindly in disposition, making hosts of friends, and never losing the confidence of any who once became attached to him, so pure was his character and so elevated were his motives that though passing through many hotly contested political struggles, the most envenomed partisan never presumed to question his integrity.

Mr. Speaker, our late friend passed through more than a third of a century of public and political life, and during that whole period enjoyed the unwavering confidence of his friends and commanded the esteem and respect of his opponents. This simple fact, sir, alone constitutes a eulogy eloquent beyond the most impassioned oratory.

In the Forty-fifth Congress General WILLIAMS was selected to fill the important and trying position of chairman of the Committee for the District of Columbia. Bringing to this duty his experience had in the government of Detroit, together with a known unswerving integrity, he made himself a place in the hearts of the people of this District which it would be difficult to fill. The shock produced here by the announcement of his death was manifested by public meet-

ings, while the universal grief of men of all parties in the city of Detroit, who assembled to honor his funeral obsequies in that city, attest the love and esteem in which he was held by friends and neighbors. The public officials, the courts, the bar, the merchants, bankers, mechanics, in fact all classes of citizens of Detroit, joined in marks of respect to his memory, and his old comrades in arms gathered from all sections of the country to mingle their tears over the bier of their beloved commander. And so, followed to his tomb by a whole community of mourners, he was laid to rest with all the honors that are paid to heroes.

Address of Mr. Mayham, of New York.

Mr. Speaker: Again has death summoned a halt in our legislative duties and we are called upon to gather around the bier of our departed brother, to pay that tribute of respect due to the memory of his exalted character and distinguished public services. Here in the presence of the inexorable destroyer we meet on common ground as brethren of a common humanity, and for a moment forget the conflicting interests, the party strifes, the personal ambitions of this fleeting and transitory life and are sadly reminded of our own mortality. In the observance of these fitting memorial services dedicated to the memory of General Alpheus S. Williams, I feel oppressed with a sense of my utter inability to express in suitable language my own high appreciation of his many noble and manly characteristics, but I cannot refrain from placing on record a feeble tribute of respect to his memory.

My personal acquaintance with General Williams commenced with the commencement of the Forty-fifth Congress. Though at first that acquaintance was in official relations as a member of a committee of which he was the honored chairman, it soon ripened into personal friendship, and I learned early to esteem and confide

in him as a friend, as well as to admire him as a faithful, honest, and efficient public officer, in which latter capacity he always exhibited those strong and commanding traits of character which, through his long and eventful life, secured for him from time to time such marked and decisive evidence of public confidence.

I think I but pronounce the universal judgment of gentlemen upon this floor when I say that no man ever brought to the discharge of official station a more honest and conscientious purpose to do his whole duty. Fidelity to public trusts was one of the cardinal principles of his life, and in the application of that principle to his official duties he rendered invaluable service to the committee, the House, and the country in the important position in which he was placed as chairman of the Committee for the District of Columbia; and that committee and this District suffered in his death a loss that cannot well be supplied.

The life and history of General WILLIAMS is not only one of interest to his contemporaries, but one which may be studied with great profit and advantage by the youth and rising generations of this country. It illustrates in a marked degree the surest method under our free system of government of attaining true greatness, and proves the truth of the couplet, that—

> Honor and fame from no conditions rise;
> Act well your part, there all the honor lies.

It shows that fame is won by noble deeds, and that honor and distinction are within the reach of all, but cannot be achieved without active and persistent personal effort.

General WILLIAMS was born in Saybrook, Connecticut, September 20, 1810. His ancestors were among the first settlers of that colony, and he proved himself no degenerate son of the brave and chivalrous pioneers from whom he descended, whose habits of industry and enterprise have so impressed themselves upon that State and the country.

Left an orphan in childhood, his youthful training devolved upon his grandfather, and his early education was conducted by Rev. Dr. King, a Congregational clergyman at North Killingworth. At an early age he was prepared for college at Lee's Academy, and in 1827 entered Yale, and graduated in 1831 at the age of twenty-one years. He then entered the Yale law school, under the professorship of Judge Daggett, where he spent three years in the study of law.

Fond of travel and adventure, on leaving his *alma mater* he traveled extensively through the Southern States and Mexico, and in 1834 sailed for Europe, where he spent two years in an extended tour, visiting all the important points upon the European continent; and returning in 1836, he settled in the city of Detroit, Michigan, where he continued to reside up to the time of his death, which city of his adoption has been the principal theater of his active and useful life.

In 1837, the year that the State of Michigan was admitted into the Federal Union, General WILLIAMS was admitted to the bar of the State of his adoption, and in 1839 was elected judge of the court of probate of Wayne County, Michigan, in which capacity he served for four years, when at the expiration of his term, he was elected one of the board of aldermen of the city of Detroit. About this time he became connected with the press, and conducted one of the leading journals of that city for about four years, when his editorial career was interrupted by his entering the volunteer service of his country as lieutenant-colonel of the First Michigan Regiment of Volunteer Infantry in the Mexican war, in which his command did valuable service in dispersing the guerrillas at Cordova and in the valley between the Orizaba Mountains and Vera Cruz. At the close of the Mexican war he returned to Detroit, and in the spring of 1849 was appointed postmaster of that city, a position which he held until 1853, when by a political change in the Federal executive administration he was superseded in that office.

After retiring from the post-office General WILLIAMS engaged actively in many important business enterprises, but held no official position except member of the school board of Detroit until the breaking out of the last war, when he promptly tendered his services to the Federal Government, serving first as president of the State military board; then as commander of the military camp of instruction at Fort Wayne, Michigan; and on the 17th of April, 1861, was commissioned by President Lincoln as brigadier-general of volunteers, and was ordered to report to General McClellan, and was by him transferred to the division under General BANKS, then stationed in Maryland.

Mr. Speaker, to follow General WILLIAMS through his brilliant military career, in that long, sanguinary, and trying struggle would be to repeat here an important chapter in the history of the war. From the time he entered the service until he was honorably discharged in June, 1866, he took prominent and conspicuous part, at the head of his command, in more than twenty important engagements, among which were the battles of Winchester, Cedar Mountain, Antietam, Chancellorsville, Gettysburgh, and Atlanta; and finally, in command of his division, he accompanied the army under General Sherman in its celebrated march from Atlanta to the sea.

In the spring of 1862 General WILLIAMS was commissioned a major-general of volunteers, and from that time until the close of the war he had command of a division, and his military achievements at the head of his command shed luster upon the brilliant records of the volunteer officers and soldiers of the war.

In every position he acquitted himself honorably and well, nor was he found wanting in any emergency either in skill or valor.

After his retirement from the Army in 1866 General WILLIAMS was appointed by President Johnson a member of the commission to examine the military claims of Missouri, and in the same year he was appointed by the President and Senate minister to San Salvador, in

Central America, where he spent three years in the discharge of the duties of that mission. In 1874 he was elected from Detroit to the Forty-fourth Congress, and was re-elected in 1876 to this Congress, in which he was serving at the time of his death.

In all the positions of trust to which he was elevated in civil life he exhibited the same devotion to country, the same courage in maintaining the right that had rendered him conspicuous in the field. Modest and retiring in his disposition, he was nevertheless true at all times to his convictions, and never swerved from the path of duty to court temporary favor or partisan rewards. Conservative in all his notions, he was never moved by popular passion or prejudice, but weighed with thoughtful deliberation every official act in the light of its effect upon the weal of his country. Through all his official and private life he never deviated from the path of strict integrity; and the highest eulogy that can be pronounced upon his character is the universal judgment of his countrymen that he lived and died an honest man—"the noblest work of God."

Mr. Speaker, it was my privilege to spend the last half-hour of his eventful official life with him in his committee-room in this House. On the morning on which he was stricken down by the disease that terminated in his death, I met him in that room before the time fixed for the convening of his committee. On that day, Mr. Speaker, by your rules, the committee of which he was chairman was to be called. In apparent good health and in excellent spirits, he conversed cheerfully and hopefully of passing through this House some measures of legislation matured in the committee in which he felt a lively interest and which he believed would promote the best interest of this District and the country.

But, alas! how vain are all human calculations. Before the hour of high noon, fixed for the convening of this House, and before your gavel summoned him hither, he was stricken by fatal disease and his official duties in this life were ended. Like a noble gladiator, he

died in the arena, at his post of duty, his last moments spent like the bulk of his long and useful life, in the service of his country. How truly may it be said:

> Fate steals along with silent tread,
> Found oftenest in what least we dread,
> Frowns in the storm with angry brow,
> But in the sunshine strikes the blow.

General WILLIAMS had faced death upon the sandy plains and amid the rugged mountains of Mexico; had stood exposed in the thickest of the fight in a score of battles when shot and shell spread carnage and death on every hand, but had come out unscathed, to be stricken down almost as suddenly as by the stroke of a cannon-shot in the privacy and security of his room in this Capitol.

He is removed from our midst. His seat is vacant in the committee-room and upon this floor, but he has left a record in the history of his country which will be as enduring as the nation he so long and faithfully served. We can but cherish his memory and mourn his loss.

Mr. Speaker, by your appointment it was my sad duty as a member of a committee of this House to follow his mortal remains to their last resting-place in the cemetery in the city of his adoption.

In that home where he was best known, in that city where he had spent the flower and vigor of his life, among those friends to whom he had endeared himself by his many virtues, in that State with the entire history of which he had been identified from the day of its admission into the Federal Union to the time of his death, and on whose history he had shed such luster by his noble deeds, his death was most deeply mourned. The assembled throng who gathered to pay respect to his memory stood with bowed and uncovered heads as his lifeless clay was solemnly borne along the crowded streets No one could witness that assemblage of State, judicial, and municipal officers and the military and civic procession, draped in the sad habiliments of mourning, without being deeply impressed with the

fact that one prominent in noble public acts had fallen; and none could witness the universal grief of all classes, high and low, rich and poor, and not feel that a benefactor of his race was being borne away to the dark shadows of the grave.

To the memory of noble deeds like his, marble and bronze statues may be reared by a grateful and munificent Commonwealth; but no monument can be erected by the hand of art so grateful to the memory of his real worth as that which is enshrined in the affections and engraven upon the hearts of his countrymen by the noble deeds of his life. They will linger in the recollections of a grateful nation, and will be cherished like precious jewels in the memory of admiring and stricken friends, and the influence of his noble example will live in this country long after his mortal remains shall have dissolved to their native element. As the encircling waves radiating from the pebble dropped upon the surface of the placid lake spread wider and wider until they reach the shore, so will the influence of his well-spent life be felt further and further through succeeding generations in countless cycles to the shores of time.

Address of Mr. Phelps, of Connecticut.

Mr. Speaker: Alpheus S. Williams was born in the State of Connecticut, in the district which I represent, and in the town which, when he removed from it, embraced the locality where I reside. Some of my nearest neighbors are among his kindred, and during his Congressional service we were personal friends. It is fitting, therefore, that I should add, in a few and sincere words, my humble offering to those of his colleagues and others who have already addressed and are yet to address the House on this occasion.

The detailed history of his life and character has been so fully and faithfully narrated by his colleague [Mr. Hubbell], who introduced the resolutions now before the House, and his military career by him,

and also by my friend from Ohio, General BANNING, and my friend from Massachusetts, General BANKS, who were for some time his comrades in the field, as to leave nothing unsaid in those respects; and I shall content myself with such more general observations as occur to me, and in making them shall need the indulgence of the House but for a few moments.

The vigorous New England morality which characterized the era of his youth, combined with the thorough academic training which he received at one of the most renowned of American universities, so imbued his moral and endowed his mental nature that when he went forth at the age of twenty-six years to engage in the business of life upon what was then the frontier of Western settlement and civilization, he was not unprepared for the struggle. What was at that time the border of an almost illimitable wilderness has since become the center of population and refinement, and the foundation of its unexampled growth in all the elements of material prosperity may in large part be justly credited to the strong intellect, the unyielding enterprise, the stern morality, and earnest piety of its New England settlers. Such men and women are the true founders and builders of enlightened States. Their plan of settlement included the church and school-house, and they provided for them when they made provision for the houses which were to shelter themselves and their children. They not only grew up with but stamped their noble peculiarities upon the section in which they located; and they, and those who followed them, have greatly contributed to make it what we now see it, in all respects a great and prosperous and powerful part of the American Union.

General WILLIAMS was in many respects a genuine type of that class of men. His personal characteristics were of the highest order. He was a true gentleman, a liberal citizen, an obliging neighbor, a sincere friend. His nature was kindly and gentle as a woman's, and no deserving appeal to either his charity or generosity was ever dis-

regarded. No one among all his associates here was more justly esteemed for those sterling intellectual and social qualities which bind men together in the closest bonds of confidence and sympathy, and he invariably attached to himself those who came within the circle of his intercourse. His best and most enduring monument will be the lasting remembrance and unqualified respect of his fellow-citizens.

Of an exceptionally quiet demeanor, he never mingled in the unseemly strife of tongues which has sometimes converted this representative body into an excited and disorderly assemblage. I well remember how, during the closing scenes of the last session of the Forty-fourth Congress, when the country was passing through the most dangerous crisis it had ever experienced, and the surging waves of partisan excitement in this Hall were shaking the foundations of the government, he was one of a very small number who were calm and self-possessed. His natural conservatism led him to take his side with those who loved their country with unselfish devotion and thought it wise to sacrifice temporary party ascendency, which they believed they had fairly won, rather than precipitate civil strife, which would have greatly imperiled, if it did not destroy, everything valuable in American institutions.

While he never aspired to leadership, he was not a servile indorser of the policies of others. An enlightened conscience was his guide in public as in private affairs. He entertained decided opinions on all important public questions, which were formed upon careful examination and matured reflection. These he avowed with independence and maintained with resolution. He was not so blind an adherent to party that he could not sometimes see something which his candor compelled him to commend in the opposition, and occasionally something to disapprove in the conduct or policy of his political friends. He never lacked the courage to act according to his honest convictions, and in doing so his acknowledged integrity of purpose

never failed to shield him from unfriendly criticism. He was especially averse to display, and sought least of all to exhibit himself.

As a statesman he discharged with ability and becoming dignity all the diplomatic and legislative duties which were devolved upon him. In the peculiarly delicate position of a representative of his government abroad he was prudent and vigilant; and while he occupied a seat in this House no constituency had a more honest or faithful Representative. He regarded a public office as an important trust, in the execution of which the utmost fidelity was to be observed, and did not consider himself discharged from responsibility until that measure of faithfulness had been fully exercised.

As a soldier he performed meritorious service in the war with Mexico, in which a few gallant Anglo-Saxon battalions subdued an empire and conquered an honorable peace in the enemy's capital. In the late civil struggle, in which the mightiest armies ever marshaled on this continent, led by the greatest captains of the age and composed of men of the same brave race and blood, were for four years hurling at each other the most terrible thunderbolts of war, he held high command in the field, and maintained with unshaken patriotism throughout the contest the integrity of the Union and the glory of the flag.

Sir, as by common consent the discord of this Hall is hushed and the work of legislation laid aside to give way to this solemn duty, I cannot forbear repeating the allusion so often recently made on occasions like the present to the suddenness and frequency of death in our midst. He whose departure we now specially deplore is but one of a noble group who have been lately taken from us. Once, and again, and again, and again, in the short space of less than three weeks, was the startling summons which called one of our associates away from earth sounded in our ears. As life's silver cord was loosed they one by one passed into that mysterious shadow on the other side of which the universal conqueror here is himself subdued, and this mortal puts on immortality. They have each left to his friends the

legacy of an honorable name, and to his country a record of distinguished service which shall be hereafter written upon the pages of her history. But a few days since they were all with us in the flush of health and hope. Now,

Death lies upon them like an untimely frost.

But in the case of our friend death was not unmerciful. He was taken not in the morning, neither in the meridian of life. The years of his usefulness were beneficently lengthened to almost the allotted span when—

God's finger touched him, and he died.

He passed away in the maturity of age and the ripeness of experience, while yet his "eye was not dim nor his natural force abated." Few, very few, have better improved the talents intrusted to their care, or given to their fellow-men more satisfactory evidence of a profitable stewardship.

Over the demise of General WILLIAMS the State of his birth mingles both her pride and her lamentation with those of the State of his adoption, and unites with her in paying to his memory the tribute of her profound respect.

For myself and my colleagues and in the name of our Commonwealth I reverently lay upon his resting-place a chaplet of immortelles and a crown of amaranth.

Brave soldier, honored statesman, cherished friend! When the snow-clad earth on that wintry December day closed over your mortal remains, the tomb shut forever from our view one whom we had known only to respect and have lost only to lament.

Our lives are rivers gliding free
To that unfathomed boundless sea—
The silent grave;
Thither all earthly pomp and boast
Roll, to be swallowed up and lost
In its dark wave.

But to the eye of faith that is not the end. When the warm springtime shall again come with its new life of verdure and its new bloom

of flowers it will symbolize a resurrection. The stone shall at length be rolled from the door of the sepulcher and its portals be no more sealed. The lost shall be regained and the separated forever reunited.

Address of Mr. Willits, of Michigan.

When a worthy man dies, he should not too soon be forgotten. The memory of a good man is a heritage; his life an example to his generation. We live, labor, suffer, and die; we achieve success, fill the measure of our duties, and pass away. For a time the place remains unfilled, the armor is thrown aside, the duties are suspended. But soon the armor is taken up, the duties are assumed by others, and the place is filled by some one of the coming generation which so closely follows. There is but a short halt in the work, and then it goes on again.

Some men originate, others perform. It is given to some to mark the outlines, and to others to fill in the details. As a rule the man who designs either has not time or is incompetent to execute. The man who does the work and does it well is as essential to the plan as its projector. The great captains of every age succeed because they have good lieutenants. Lincoln had Stanton; Grant had Sherman and Thomas, McPherson, and Rawlins.

Frequently, leadership is nominal, position an accident; the captain a figure-head, but the lieutenant never. He does the work, is never an accident. In the history of this world fame comes to the man who represents results, whether he has earned it or not. Let us not forget the patient toil; the honest thorough work that made these results possible. All honor to the lieutenants—to them gratitude if not glory.

To-day I would speak a few words in honor of one of these lieutenants. He never aspired to be captain; he never sought leader-

ship. Whatever of place or position he held came to him as the proper man to fill it. He honored the State of Michigan as she delighted to honor him. Forty-two years of his life he gave to her and his country through her.

Alpheus Starkey Williams deserves to be remembered. The lesson of his life is that he always did his duty and did it well. He was emphatically one of the workers through whom results were achieved. He was well equipped for his life labor. He had a sturdy constitution that brought him to the age of sixty-eight years without a serious illness. He was born of Welsh-English parentage at Saybrook, Connecticut, September 20, 1810; graduated in his twenty-first year at Yale College; spent the following three years at the Yale law school. During the years of his collegiate and law course he was a great traveler and visited every State then in the Union, and the Mexican province of Texas. After he finished his law studies he spent two years in Europe, returning to his native land in 1836. At the age of twenty-six, with all the culture that Yale could give; with a mind stored in the classics and the law; with a thorough knowledge from personal observation of his own country and with the accomplishments of foreign travel; with a clear head, a trained intellect, a cultivated taste, a strong constitution, he sought a home at Detroit, in the then infant State of Michigan. At this time Michigan had a population of less than one hundred thousand. In this new Commonwealth, just placed in the galaxy of States, he cast his life lot. He was one of the almost countless number whom the East has sent to build up the West.

As a rule, this influx was composed of men like General Williams, young, full of energy, scant in material resources, relying upon the talent nature has conferred, upon habits of industry primitive New England so wonderfully fostered, with the keen sense of independence and self-reliance which so characterize the Anglo-Saxon race. The pioneers of the West were a hardy race; not heroic, perhaps, in

the sense the poets sing, but their lives and labors were truly heroic. Their sturdy toil, wise forethought, patient willingness to build that others might enjoy; their sacrifice of present ease that they might found a home for their children and give them the culture and advantages denied to themselves; all these, and more that time forbids us to mention, furnish subjects for the consideration of statesmen and the meditation of poets.

At the time our deceased colleague landed in Detroit, the woods of Michigan were full of just such men, who were slashing the sturdy oak and turning up the virgin soil to the sun; who were plowing and planting, clearing and building; men who like him had left homes of culture and many social advantages for the log cabin to be found only by following the blazed trees; for a social intercourse limited to "raisings" and "frolics" by the burning log-heaps in the clearings, or the grand old blazing fire-place that threw a ruddy glow upon the joyous, rustic scene. At the eastern edge of this forest was Detroit, one of the gateways into the "far West." Though but a small town she had a history of over one hundred years. For over a century the whitewashed cottages of the French settler had dotted the shores of "the straits," where Pontiac, Tecumseh, and other noted Indian warriors had held their councils, and the tribes gathered for their annual tribute. The Indian wars were over; the war of 1812 had finally settled in the mind of the Indian and all the world the supremacy of the United States over the vast territory which from the time of Marquette down had been debatable ground; and now it was open to the peaceable occupation of the pioneer and adventurer, and an immigration began that almost equaled the irruption of the tribes of Central and Northern Europe upon the plains of France, Italy, and Spain. In 1836 this immigration was at its highest; Detroit was filled with men on "fortune bent." Among them came our friend. He found there his peers in culture, his equals in ability to grasp success in the feverish, adventurous life in this new home; but among

them all there was to be found no one his superior in integrity or in steadfastness of purpose. He was all his life a positive man; a man of fixed convictions; a conservative man; a safe man.

These characteristics soon won for him a place in the new society he had entered. In 1837 he was admitted to the bar; in 1839 elected judge of probate for four years; in 1843 alderman, and 1844 recorder of Detroit. From 1843 to 1847 he was proprietor of the Detroit Advertiser, the leading Whig paper of the State, which he disposed of to lead the First Michigan Volunteer Regiment to the Mexican war. In 1849 he was appointed postmaster of Detroit by President Taylor and held the place for four years. During 1858 and 1859 he was a member of the board of education of the city. In 1861, following the convictions he held, that the perpetuity of our institutions depended upon the continued union of the States, he entered into the late civil war on the side of the Union. War, and particularly a popular war, develops remarkable and unexpected changes in the character of men. Great men arise to meet a great emergency, either in the council or on the field. The times, accident, or a seeming trivial occurrence sometimes changes the current of a man's whole life. Human nature is many-sided. Anomalies exist and appear where least expected. History is bristling with exemplifications. From the time when, as the story goes, Tyrtæus roused by his odes and pæans the sinking courage of the Spartans, and the lame poet enrolled his name among the military saviors of the city, the scholar, traveler, the refined gentleman, has proved gloriously that those attainments and accomplishments in no wise unfit him for the rougher life of a soldier. Readily and successfully have the classic and luxurious retirements of the study given place to the stirring scenes of camp life. Such proof is given in the career of the man in honor of whose memory we assemble to-day.

From April, 1861, to January, 1866, General WILLIAMS served his country in camp and on the battle-field. To him this was a solemn

duty, into which he entered with his characteristic singleness of purpose. He left his State as brigadier-general of volunteers, with a commission dating from April, 1861, and never returned until July, 1865. He never received a furlough. His life was in camp with his men; his family subordinated to his country. His home ties, strong as they were, could not draw him away from the higher duty to which he felt himself called. Into this new life he put all his energy. He called into requisition all those qualities which he had inherited from his sturdy ancestors, and had so highly developed by education and travel. That he spent those years in the vicissitudes of war with a full appreciation of all that occurred is attested by the numerous letters written to his family, a volume of themselves, in which there is much that is worthy of preservation, and from which I would like to quote, would time and the occasion permit. Suffice it to say they are models of purity in style, of graphic description, and in wholesome discussion of the events of the war. But underlying all and pervading all is a sincerity of conviction and honesty of purpose that defeat could not destroy nor seeming injustice impair. He never complained; he never said aught in derogation of a fellow-soldier; he was charitable even toward those who supplanted him or were advanced when seemingly he justly was entitled to the promotion. He was a noble man as well as a gallant soldier.

A word now as to the part our friend took in the strife which for four years so filled the minds and hearts of our people.

General Williams had had some military experience as a private and afterward as captain of the celebrated Brady Guards; and in the United States service, in the winter of 1838 and 1839, during what is known as the "Canadian patriot war." Also, in October, 1847, he was commissioned lieutenant-colonel of the First Michigan Volunteers for the Mexican war, but his regiment arrived too late to take a share in the battles about the City of Mexico. The regiment was mustered out in July, 1848.

In the late war General WILLIAMS's first services were as president of the State military board and commander of the camp of instruction at Fort Wayne, near Detroit, for the officers and non-commissioned officers of the Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Michigan Volunteer Regiments. From this important post he was ordered to report as brigadier-general to McClellan for active service, and by the latter general was assigned to the command of the third brigade of General Banks's division. Shortly after assuming this command occurred the battle of Ball's Bluff; and from that time on General WILLIAMS saw continuous, active service to the end of the war.

This is not the time nor the place to enter into a detailed description of these campaigns. Suffice it to say that during the famous series of battles, at Ball's Bluff, Cedar Mountain, Antietam, Chancellorsville, and Gettysburgh, which the Army of the Potomac fought, General WILLIAMS, at the head of a brigade, division, or corps, gallantly took his share. Here he gained the reputation which has followed him through his life and to his grave and which will linger an unfading picture upon the memories of his comrades and upon the tablets of public recollection—that of a conscientious and successful coadjutor and executor of his chief—a kind, popular, and beloved comrade, and a gallant, skilled, and distinguished officer.

In September, 1863, with his old division General WILLIAMS was ordered West to the Army of the Cumberland. During the winter of 1863–'64 he covered the Nashville and Bridgeport Railroad.

In May, 1864, he entered upon the famous "campaign of one hundred days under fire," which ended with the capture of Atlanta. In November, of the same year, General Sherman organized his forces for the celebrated "march to the sea." In command of his division General WILLIAMS joined in the march. At Savannah he was made a brevet major-general, and became an important factor in the successes of the campaign.

At the close of the war General WILLIAMS reported at Washington

and was assigned to the West. He continued in command of a military district in Missouri until January, 1866. While home at Detroit on leave of absence, he was honorably discharged from the Army.

His was a peculiar faculty. At his command and ready for instantaneous use were all the principles of strategic skill; a clear, ready mind, quick to choose and act, and an inexorable will combined with a perseverance which regarded no obstacles. These qualities, combined with his lovable character, made him what has come to be regarded almost an anomaly in history: a man whose resplendent reputation is clear and unsullied by the dislike of those above him in rank or the envy and jealousy of those beneath. At the end of the campaign through Georgia, the officers of his old brigade waited on him in a body and presented the unanimous petition of one and all that "Old Pap," as he was fondly called by his men, might return to his old command. The respect in which he was held by his superiors is shown by the distinguished consideration with which he was treated always when alive, and when gone from the cares and strife of this world, by the grief-stricken faces which appeared in the military pageant so fitly tendered on the departure of the sad funereal party from this city.

General WILLIAMS left the Army to be still more honored among the representatives of his government abroad and in the councils of the nation at home. In December, 1866, he became minister resident of Central America, where he remained three years, and over which he traveled extensively. General WILLIAMS was elected to the Forty-fourth Congress, and re-elected to the Forty-fifth. I need not enlarge upon his services in this Chamber, or upon his fidelity out of it. We all knew him and all appreciated him. He was honest; he was firm in his convictions, little swayed by party passions, to which we all, too much, perhaps, are given. He was assiduous and conscientious in his duties, and remitted them not even though warned by his friends. He was stricken down in the line of his duty, in his committee-room, while considering the important duties committed to

his charge. He died at his post, as is the wish of all good soldiers. We took his remains to his home, and laid them in the grave on the shores of the beautiful river which forty-two years before he first saw in the bright hope of his young manhood.

May his soul rest in like peace and quiet beside that brighter stream, that golden river that flows by the throne of God.

Address of Mr. Maish, of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker: Again have we paused in the busy labors of this place. The usual clamor that marks the conduct of public business has given way to that sober silence which is but the outward expression of the feelings of our hearts.

We have met to pay a last sad tribute to a departed brother, now sleeping beneath the sod of the valley, and the solemnity of the occasion is intensified when we remember that this is but a repetition of similar scenes fresh in the memory of all.

Death has been busy in our midst, and within a few weeks has marked for the tomb some of the most honored men of our day and time. First his summons came to him whose death we commemorate to-day. Hardly had he been borne to the grave when we were startled by the intelligence of the death of one of Virginia's noble sons, and the chair of Douglas was made vacant. Then came the mournful news that Hartridge, of Georgia, had fallen in the fight, and ere the gloom had passed away the fatal messenger had laid his hand upon Schleicher, of Texas.

How impressively do these swift-recurring visitations remind us "what shadows we are and what shadows we pursue." It is well that we should lay aside the ordinary business of life, and, forgetful of its ambitions, its cares, and its strifes, spend an hour in the immediate presence of that dread messenger who respects neither the beauty of youth, the strength of manhood, nor the majesty of age;

who enters alike the palace and the cottage, and who cannot even be debarred here.

In a long life of public service, General WILLIAMS held many prominent civil and military positions. In all of the varied duties these imposed on him he acted his part so well that he gained high honor and distinction. Well equipped by a liberal education and extensive travel in the Old World, he entered upon the active field of life among strangers.

In 1836 he located in Detroit. At that early period the city of his adoption was in the far West. In a young and growing city a man of energy and talent would not long be allowed to remain in obscurity. He was soon honored with various positions of public trust. In all of them he gained the confidence and esteem of his fellow-citizens.

He began his military career in our war with Mexico. As lieutenant-colonel of one of the Michigan regiments he gained distinction as an officer and a soldier in that contest. It was, however, in the war of the rebellion that he achieved the crowning glory of his military reputation. He early responded to the call of his country. In August, 1861, he was commissioned a brigadier-general, and was from that time until the end of the war intrusted with important duties and commands. Whether at the head of a brigade, a division, or a corps, he was equal to every situation, and always proved himself an able, brave, and efficient officer. Beginning at Winchester in May, 1862, to Bentonville in March, 1865, he participated in fifteen battles, among which were Antietam, Chancellorsville, and Gettysburgh. He was often honorably mentioned for his meritorious conduct in battles, and was brevetted a major-general for "marked ability and energy." Such a name and such a record could not have been gained without abilities of a high order. Fictitious reputations were indeed sometimes made in our Army. General WILLIAMS won his by merit alone.

As a member of this House he was highly esteemed for his ability

and social qualities. His large experience and strong common sense gave him a commanding position here. He seldom participated in the discussions of this body. We all know, however, how attentively he was listened to when he did speak. He did not waste the time of the House to catch the ears of the galleries, nor to place his name on the pages of the Record. When he claimed its attention, we knew he had no other purpose than the promotion of the public business.

He was a man of independent thought and action. When his views differed from those of his party associates, he had no hesitancy in casting his vote accordingly. In his long and varied career as a public man he always maintained an unsullied reputation. Often as he was before the people as a candidate for office, at no time was his personal integrity assailed. His character was so exalted that party rancor could not reach it.

Mr. Speaker, the eulogy which it has been my privilege to pronounce upon General WILLIAMS falls far short of his just deserts. I have as a Representative of Pennsylvania upon whose soil he fought, and many of whose brave sons he led in battle, added her tribute to his memory here. I have spoken of his bravery as a soldier, his ability as a statesman, but have not paused to dwell upon his remarkable social qualities and private virtues. After all, it is these that most endear to the heart and live longest in the memory. The victories in war or politics of a departed one may serve to keep his memory alive for a time, and cause his name to be mentioned by an unfeeling populace in terms of praise; but the sweet, endearing qualities which we have marked in our daily social intercourse will win that of greater value far than the applause of the noisy multitude—the tribute of a tear. None of us can forget the genial smiles and cheerful greetings of General WILLIAMS. That smile has faded from our sight, and "Silence now, enamored of his voice, locks its mute music in her rugged cell."

Address of Mr. Caldwell, of Tennessee.

Mr. Speaker: In the early days of the Forty-fourth Congress my attention was called by one of my colleagues to the remarkable career of the distinguished man to whose memory we are now paying a tribute of respect. Turning to the Directory I read with surprise and admiration the brief story of his life as recorded therein. I invite the attention of the House to it now, for no gift of speech or rhetoric can convey so accurate an idea of his character as this simple, unadorned recital of his long and varied public service:

Alpheus S. Williams, of Detroit, was born at Saybrook, Connecticut, September 20, 1810; graduated at Yale College in 1831; was a student in the Yale law school in 1832 and 1833; traveled in Europe in 1834, 1835, and 1836; removed to Michigan in 1836, and commenced the practice of law; was judge of probate for Wayne County, 1840–'44; alderman of Detroit in 1843, and recorder of the city in 1844; was proprietor and editor of the Detroit Daily Advertiser in 1843–'48; was lieutenant-colonel of the First Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment in the Mexican war, 1847–'48; was postmaster of Detroit, 1849–'53; was a member of the Detroit board of education, 1856–'57; entered the Union Army by appointment of the President as brigadier-general of volunteers in August, 1861; commanded the Twelfth Corps in the battles of South Mountain, Antietam, and Gettysburgh, and the Twentieth Corps in the siege of Atlanta, on Sherman's "march to the sea," and in the campaign of the Carolinas, and was mustered out of service in January, 1866; was appointed in August, 1866, by the President, one of the commissioners to adjust the military claims of Missouri; was the Democratic candidate for governor in November, 1866; was minister resident to the Republic of Salvador, 1866–'69; was elected to the Forty-fourth Congress, and was re-elected to the Forty-fifth Congress as a Democrat, receiving 14,471 votes against 12,417 votes for Henry M. Duffield, Republican, and 1,736 votes for John V. Renkle, Greenback candidate.

After graduating in 1831 at an institution which has prepared many of our public men for careers of honor and usefulness, after more than four years devoted to the study of the law and to European travel, and after four more years spent in the practice of his chosen

profession in the city of Detroit, at the age of thirty his public service commenced. First a judge of probate, then alderman and recorder of the city, then proprietor and director of a great public journal during five years of high partisan excitement, then lieutenant-colonel of a regiment that helped to plant the American flag over the halls of the Montezemas, then postmaster at Detroit for five years and member of the board of education, then as general in the volunteer service commanding one corps at South Mountain, Antietam, and Gettsburgh, and another in Sherman's memorable march to the sea and through the Carolinas; then, on the restoration of peace, a commissioner charged with the delicate duty of adjusting the military claims of the State of Missouri; then, in 1866, the candidate of the Democratic party for governor of Michigan; for three years representing his country as minister resident to the Republic of Salvador, and then a member of the Forty-fourth and of this Congress. Where in all this book of biographies is there recorded a public service so long continued and so varied? A jurist, an educator, a warrior, a diplomat, a legislator; such is the manifold character that passes under review to-day. To discharge acceptably the duties and meet fully the responsibilities and demands of these various offices must require a versatility of intellect very rarely bestowed upon men. Men so gifted have illustrated our own annals, and here and there in the current of universal history have appeared most conspicuous examples. Chief among them is Julius Cæsar. Essaying everything, he excelled in all. He was the foremost general and statesman of his age, and, excepting Cicero, its greatest orator. As a historian, critics have united in the judgment that he has never been surpassed and rarely equaled in simplicity, vigor, and truthfulness. He was a mathematician and jurist, the friend and patron of letters and literary men. Though his character be marred by a sensuality not uncommon in that age, the words which Shakespeare puts into the mouth of Antony, in the famous apostrophe to

that "bleeding piece of earth," are not mere extravagances of a grief-oppressed brain:

> Thou art the ruins of the noblest man
> That ever lived in the tide of times.

As already remarked, our own history is not without distinguished instances of this universal talent for public affairs, and foremost among them is Washington, of whom an ardent and eloquent Irishman once said:

> There have been splendid exemplifications of some single qualification: Cæsar was merciful, Scipio was continent, Hannibal was patient; but it was reserved for Washington to blend them all in one, and exhibit in one glow of associated beauty the pride of every model and the perfection of every master.

In his essay upon the character of Hampden, when he laments the untimely fall of that great man, Mr. Macaulay makes this allusion to Washington:

> When the vices and ignorance, which the old tyranny had generated, threatened the new freedom with destruction, England missed that sobriety, that self-command, that perfect soundness of judgment, that perfect rectitude of intention, to which the history of revolutions furnishes no parallel, or furnishes a parallel in Washington alone

If such has been the estimate of enlightened foreigners, what judgment shall his own countrymen pass upon him? Truly, sir, it may be said that the Father of his Country is so impressed upon mankind by tradition and history, and the fruits of his wisdom and labors, visible everywhere around us, that the world stands up to pronounce his to be one of the few characters in all history "which have stood the closest scrutiny and the severest test, which have been tried in the furnace and proved pure, which have been weighed in the balance and not been found wanting, which have been declared sterling by the general consent of mankind, and which are visibly stamped with the image and superscription of the Most High."

I pass over other distinguished instances in American history of this general talent for public service, as illustrated in such men as

Hamilton, Jackson, Cushing, with the remark that it has been less rare in ours than perhaps any other modern nation.

Capacity and fidelity marked the conduct of General WILLIAMS in every branch of the public service in which he was engaged. An incorruptible integrity, a penetration rarely at fault, a high order of intelligence, a courage that disdained to parley with wrong or be a party to any compromise of the right, a sense of justice that seemed an intuition, appeared to me as his distinguishing characteristics. He seldom asked the ear of this House and always spoke with precision and clearness. His opinions were deliberately formed and most courageously maintained. I have taken occasion to review some of his speeches, and have been struck with their boldness, independence, and individuality. They are distinguished by no touch of the imagination nor play of the fancy, and embody only cold, clear, unadorned argument, directed with unerring accuracy at the point of dispute.

I beg to call the attention of the House to an extract from a speech on a memorable subject and occasion two years ago. The mightiest controversy ever submitted to human tribunal had been laid before the electoral commission, and in rapid succession came judgments adverse to the views and fatal to the hopes of this side of the Hall. Opposition to the completion of the count in accordance with these judgments grew day by day in force and volume. The peace of the Republic seemed in imminent peril. General WILLIAMS realized to the fullest the dire extremity to which the government might drift, and gave expression to his earnest convictions of duty in these forcible and patriotic words:

> Granting all the charges brought against this commission to be true, that they have disregarded the law and the Constitution and followed solely partisan preferences and predilections in their decisions, can I justify myself in ignoring the law I helped to make? Shall I stand excused while voting for dilatory motions, intended practically to nullify a law of Congress and to place the government of the Republic in a state of chaotic uncertainty?
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> * * * * * * * *

It is plain that in defeating the decisions of the commission we remit ourselves to the original contest between the two Houses, and its inevitable result the declaration of a President by each House. We do just what we voted to avoid when with extraordinary unanimity we pssed the electoral commission law; we place in jeopardy the peace of the nation; we vote for an internal strife, the end whereof no man can see. Neither my conscience nor my judgment allows me to be a party to so fatal a measure.

Having reached his conclusion and seen clearly the path of duty, no threat could intimidate nor clamor shake him. Like the fabled oak, the ruder the blast the firmer it rooted him. His confidence was not merely that of a hero prepared for the onset and battle; it was rather of the seed which bears fruit in martyrs, and which in the ages past has made mankind "faithful unto death."

Another aspect of his character impressed me forcibly. While he was fond of the excitement and glory of the political arena, he had a contempt for much that is drawn around it by reckless ambition and selfish greed, so graphically portrayed by an eminent American divine:

The wire-pulling and the bribery, the pitiful truckling and the grotesque compromises, the exaggeration and the detraction, the melodramatic issues and the sham patriotism, the party watchwords and the party nicknames, the schemes of the few paraded as the will of the many, the elevation of men whose only worth is in the votes they command, vile men whose hands you would not grasp in friendship, whose presence you would not tolerate by your fireside; incompetent men whose fitness is not in their capacity as functionaries or legislators, but as organ-pipes; the snatching at the slices and offal of office, the intemperance and the violence, the finesse and the falsehood.

All these things, the peculiar stock in trade of the demagogue, so intimately connected with political agitation and public life in this country and perhaps in all countries, inspired his honest and manly soul with a just disdain. He impressed me as a man that hated devious and crooked ways and loved direct and ingenuous dealing in public as well as in private life.

His love for constitutional government and liberty protected thereunder was intense and absorbing. That he should at the close of the

war and after a most successful and brilliant military career have laid aside his armor and entered the lists of those who fought on political fields for the restoration of what they regarded as the constitutional rights of lately rebellious States, braving the obloquy and detraction of the time, is a speaking index to his principles and character. He had only to resolve in what direction lay the right, and the consequences of pursuing it never cost him an apprehension or a thought. These were left to the Supreme Disposer of human events, in the firm conviction that truth is eternal and her ultimate triumph certain.

In the social circle General WILLIAMS was genial and agreeable. His friends sought and loved his society. He contributed to the interest and life of a conversation from a large fund of humor, anecdote, and reminiscence, and did it with much tact and delicacy. I recall now with melancholy interest a holiday spent in his company during the spring of 1878, at the Great Falls of the Potomac, which impressed me forcibly with the social and affectionate traits of a seemingly rugged nature. Around us was a scenery prodigal of a wild beauty, which lifted the mind above private and public cares into the bosom of nature. Huge masses of upheaved, disjointed, unshapen rock lay around on every hand, silently attesting some remote period when awful forces had there been called into play. Gray, waterworn, and sonorous, as for untold cycles they had been, they were eloquent of man's exceeding vanity and littleness. General WILLIAMS enjoyed and freely commented upon the scene; and as I recall now the day and the incidents the thought presses upon me that there was a similitude, a harmony, an analogy—a something, I know not what, that seemed a kinship between his time-worn and battle-scarred person and that scene of venerable and rugged grandeur.

Mr. Speaker, there is a grandeur in such a character that must challenge our admiration and homage. Should there seem to be

spots upon it they are like the fleecy cloud that floats across the disk of the morning sun, for a moment casting a shadow over the spectator, but never approaching the face of the luminary.

His life ended a little short of the allotted three score and ten—the ripest fruit gathered of late from these Halls by the inexorable Reaper. It had been full of incident and interest. The half century of his manhood had brought change and progress and promise as no equal period in the world's history had witnessed. Destiny in its onward sweep had borne him through revolutions of thought, of science, of human effort and achievement beyond all recorded precedent. He had seen the rise and fall of statesmen, parties, and administrations. He had seen his country advance with restless and unpausing energy to the rank of nations that boast the majesty and might of eventful centuries, impelled onward from stage to stage and progress to progress with a rapidity at once dazzling and dangerous. From that wilderness his valor had helped to achieve he had seen the red man retiring—his arrow broken, his springs dried up, his council-fires extinguished. He had seen the highest art usurp the domain of nature, planting it with populous cities and flourishing States. He had seen the nation convulsed by a fratricidal war that summoned millions to the red field of carnage and glory, putting to the test the skill, courage, and endurance of the highest type of modern manhood. He had seen the strength of serried ranks shivered, and a mighty issue, submitted to the stern abitrament of force, settled and put at rest we may hope forever. Of all this he was a spectator and in much of it was an actor, playing no inconspicuous part. Truly, sir, there was an appropriateness, a poetic harmony and grandeur in the circumstances of his death—a Divine graciousness in the dispensation that allowed him to step from this Capitol and its exalted stage "out into that unexplored sea that rolls round all the world."

More than once, Mr. Speaker, since I have had a seat here death has entered this Hall and borne away a choice spirit as a trophy of

his resistless power. We may recall now with melancholy pride and interest the roll of the honored dead of the Forty-fourth and Forty-fifth Congresses translated from this palace of the nation to the lowly earth-house in the valley and on the hill-side, and to the long unbroken sleep of the ages: Starkweather, in the prime of life and very noontime of usefulness; Parsons, the youthful, handsome, gifted Representative of the Falls City; Leonard, the scholarly and ill-starred, while on a mission of the heart, yielding up his young life to a pestilential fever on an alien soil; Quinn, genial, generous, incorruptible; Welch, buoyant with all the energy, pride, and inspiration of the spring-time of life; Douglas, famed even in Virginia as an orator and jurist; Hartridge, "the rose and expectancy" of Georgia; Schleicher, learned, laborious, and faithful; and last, the illustrious subject of these memorial exercises. Reviewing this luminous roll of departed worth and genius and manhood, we are reminded that our lives are but as the sands upon the shore, our voices but as the evening zephyrs that dally with the leaf for a moment and pass away forever.

> 'Tis the wink of an eye, 'tis the draught of a breath,
> From the blossom of health to the paleness of death,
> From the gilded saloon to the bier and the shroud—
> Oh! why should the spirit of mortal be proud?

Whence or how we came is mystery. Whither we tend we know not. We do know that the survivor of us all shall tarry but a little while here and then join the mighty caravan that has gone forward to the infinite Beyond. As each falls his place is filled. The representative is dead; long live the representative. The nation lives on; it has perished in none of its parts, for it exists not in one, nor a hundred, nor a thousand men, however eminent and great, but in the affections, hopes, energies, and will of forty millions of human beings. These themselves may perish and fall away, but other generations advance to take their places; for whom also the seed-time and

the harvest, the snow and the rain, the sunshine and storm, the flowers and the music of birds shall come and go.

So the multitude goes, like the flower or the weed,
That withers away to let others succeed.
So the multitude comes, even those we behold,
To repeat every tale that has often been told;
For we are the same our fathers have been;
We see the same sights our fathers have seen;
We drink the same stream and view the same sun,
And run the same course our fathers have run;
The thoughts we are thinking our fathers would think;
From the death we are shrinking our fathers would shrink;
To the life we are clinging they also would cling,
But it speeds for us all like a bird on the wing.

God grant that as our lives speed onward and the years go by in the solemn procession of the ages, they shall transmit the same love of free institutions and honest government, the same hatred of corruption and misrule, the same exalted, self-denying patriotism that warmed the heart and guided the footsteps of the eminent man whose life we this day commemorate; and we may best realize our own responsibility and prove ourselves equal to it if we bear forever in mind that—

Death hath made no breach
In love and sympathy, in hope and trust;
No outward sign or sound our ears can reach;
But there's an inward, spiritual speech
That greets us still, though mortal tongue be dead,
And bids us do the work that they laid down.

Address of Mr. Ellis, of Louisiana.

Mr. Speaker: With the shadows and sorrows of the bereavement occasioned by the death of General Williams upon us, we stand to-night face to face with the consideration of his life, its achievements, its toils, its labors, its aspirations. With one accord we agree that it was a useful and honorable life; and, now that it is finished forever,

we would gather from it whatever of virtues it may have exemplified, whatever of example for our guidance it may have furnished.

And yet, sir, I scarcely know how to add anything for our reflection to what has already been said. The language of eulogy seems to me to be exhausted. The voice of that strong, manly affection which bound General WILLIAMS to the brave strong hearts of those who associated with him has been fully uttered. Not one single note of all the wondrous and touching symphonies which slumber in the lyre-strings of the mournful muse has been left untouched and unawakened, while by masterly hands the outlines of the life and the features of the character of the illustrious dead have been drawn so perfectly that I painfully feel my inability to add a single touch to the already perfect work. And yet, sir, would I weave a chaplet, simple though it be, for his memory; and from the perennial blooms and deathless verdure of the far southern land that I represent would I bring a flower to lay with those richer offerings which have been so lovingly placed upon the grave of our lamented friend.

Mr. Speaker, men's lives are valuable as they incarnate ideas, or as they exemplify splendid virtues, or as they teach valuable lessons. We turn over the pages of the days and the years of their lives as we turn over the pages of a volume. Some of them we remember, others we mark; some we love to recall, and others we forget as a volume or a page whereon no word is written. Those who have toiled for a great principle, who have taught their fellow-men useful lessons, or who have exemplified virtues worthy the imitation, live on even after death. Those who die having lived for naught, who failed to achieve and to teach and to exemplify, are but as demolished temples wherein no worship was ever held, no rites performed, and around which no love clings and no fond memory dwells.

Until this evening I had known but little of the details of that illustrious career whose sudden close causes the solemn services of this hour. But from the lips of his distinguished and eloquent col-

league [Mr. WILLITS] I have heard elaborated the details of those labors and achievements which are so briefly outlined in the Congressional Directory. And recalling the events of his life from its very commencement, or rather from the time when with full panoplied manhood he mingled in the struggles of real life, down to its close here, the lesson which I gather in the very thought of his colleague is perfectly expressed in the language of America's greatest and purest soldier, and it is this: "Duty is the sublimest word of our language."

My acquaintance with him began when he and I came to occupy seats as members of a former Congress, four years ago. Without culminating in very intimate association our relations grew into a cordial and sincere friendship which remained unabated to the close of his life.

General WILLIAMS attracted all who approached him by a suavity of manner, by a gentleness of demeanor, by a high-toned and chivalric bearing, by a universal courtesy and kindness which gave assurance of a noble heart within. We all remember his pleasant, cheerful voice, we recall his warm and cordial greetings, and we can never forget the infinite charm which his bright presence and genial conversation diffused over every circle in which he moved. But, sir, all these traits of that noble character have been fully and fondly recalled here to-night. Be it my task to glance at a few leading events of the dead patriot's life to impress the lesson which I gather from it.

Possessed of a liberal education, he was fully fitted to fight the battles of life. Fortunate in being able to travel abroad in Europe at a very early age, he was lifted above that narrowness of soul, he lost that provincialism which sometimes attaches to and dwarfs the strongest minds, and returned to his country from abroad well calculated and well qualified to perform a high and heroic part in its history, to impress himself upon his times, and to leave a lasting monument of love and gratitude in the hearts of his countrymen. I find

him winning distinction at the bar and filling high civic positions long before some of us who are here to-night were born. In all these stations we find him ever true to the dictates of duty. In the prime of his manhood, when the war-call came from the Rio Grande and from Mexico, and when all that was brave and chivalrous in America had gathered where War palsied Mexico's rooted mountains and bathed her gorges in battle-flames and hovered his boding, dark presence over her chaparrals, we find this hero among the very first from the State of his adoption to fly to the field of duty and of danger. We all know how well he discharged his duty there. We know how superbly he illustrated the high qualities of the American soldier. We find him there, as everywhere, at the post of duty. He was like the lone sentinel who stands beneath the watching stars and who, though dangers thicken all around and creep about amid the shadows, deserts not his post, but dies there if need be; or like the pilot who, with hand on wheel, amid storm or shipwreck or circling flames stands at the post of duty to die there if need be. So we find General WILLIAMS in the high discharge of his duties as a soldier proffering his life to his country, to fight for her, for her to die if needs be.

Returning from Mexico amid the rejoicing of a triumphant and grateful people, General WILLIAMS settled down once more to the pursuits of a peaceful and private life. Not long, however, was it before he was discharging the functions of high civil position under Federal appointment. And thus he continued growing steadily in the hearts of his people, beloved, honored, respected, and discharging with scrupulous care every duty which devolved upon him, whether as citizen, official, or lawyer. And there he remained until the terrible frown of the gathering war-cloud darkened our unhappy country and the hour grew heavy with peril. A new pathway of duty is suddenly opened before him, and sorrowfully, sadly perhaps, and yet without faltering or hesitating, he sets out bravely to pursue it.

Sir, in all that mighty tide of valor that poured from hill and plain, in all the mighty and majestic armies that gathered in this northern land beneath the folds of the flag of the Union, how many elements, how many emotions, how many different impulses there were! There was youth with no knowledge of the realities, the terrible sufferings of war, gathered there perhaps from the high and chivalric impulse to dare the dangers of the field. To such there was something of pride in the perils of war, and they were eager and ready to rush to the fray to pluck some laurel from the battle-field. There were others that rallied in those grand armies from a feeling of philanthropy. Their inspiration and thought was that they were bearing liberty and enfranchisement and equal rights to a downtrodden and long-oppressed race. There were perhaps a few who were animated by sectional hate; but there were hundreds and thousands whose sole idea and sentiment was the preservation of the Union. In entering upon that terrible struggle General WILLIAMS was animated by no love of war, no thirst for glory. He had been in the tented field; he had "drunk in the earthquake of the guns"; he had seen the writhing of the wounded; he had marked the pale scathed faces of the dead; he had seen how war's hostile hoofs trenched the land and blotted out its very civilization; and from this spectacle of gathering strife his kindly and brave heart shrank. Nor was there with him any of the sentiment of philanthropy. From his standpoint, to his political views, the peculiar institutions of the South were guaranteed by the Constitution, nor did he believe that lawful power existed to touch or destroy it. Nor with him was there the mere sentiment of the preservation of the Union. There was to him something beyond; the preservation of the Constitution, the absolute salvation of republican government. In his belief liberty itself was imperiled, and imperiled too by the rash acts of his own countrymen.

Sir, I can well imagine how that patriotic, that kindly heart would have averted the storm—how like Curtius he would have leaped into

the gulf to save the Union and to preserve peace. I can well fancy that with him there was no passion, no hate, no other sentiment animating his heart than the high and noble and splendid impulse of duty and of loyalty to his country, loyalty to her free institutions; and sternly, bravely, sadly, without passion, a splendid type of the conservative sentiment of the war democracy of the North, he went down to do battle for the Union and the Constitution.

Mr. Speaker, I was of those who fought in the armies against which General WILLIAMS drew his sword. But I would be indeed blinded by prejudice and insensate of soul did I fail to appreciate and to candidly avow the honest, the sincere convictions of duty, the lofty, unbending, and sacred sense of loyalty which animated his soul when in sorrow rather than in anger my brother drew his sword upon me and my people, and without passion or hatred, solemnly and patiently, sadly but sternly, fought on until victory crowned his efforts with her smile. I trust, sir, the time may soon come when prejudice and passion shall no longer prevent us from clearly seeing and manfully according honesty of purpose and purity of motive to all Americans who engaged in our unhappy strife. When that time comes we will be very near the glorious day of perfect peace and reunion. How nobly General WILLIAMS bore himself in that civil war has been told. He exhibited the highest qualities of the American soldier, and in an eminent degree developed great capacity to command, while he illustrated a lion-like courage which made him seem at times to defy danger and to court death upon the field. This quality won from the common soldier that endearing and familiar epithet of "Old Fighting Pap," which followed him in peace, and which will live forever. Those who followed him can well remember with a soldier's pride that brow which was so calm amid whistling bullets, that form which rode with such death-defying heroism right amid the blaze of hostile guns, and that death-scorning courage that seemed to find its congenial home upon the battle-field where brave men fought and bled

and died for what they deemed was right. And the "star of the field that poured its beams upon his battle" and led him at last to victory was simply the light of his life, the star of duty. It was his "pillar of cloud by day and of fire by night." He followed it as steadfastly and with the same faith that the prophet of Israel of old followed that which the Almighty's hand had upreared before his wondering and adoring gaze; and at last it led him to victory and peace.

And, Mr. Speaker, with General WILLIAMS the cessation of the war meant peace. His heroic soul was too noble to taunt the fallen; his brave heart was too manly to desire to persecute the humiliated and the conquered, and no sooner had that sword, as knightly and as chivalrous as ever bathed in the battle-light, or ever pointed the way to victory, been sheathed, than the hand which had so heroically wielded it was all busy with deeds of kindness, with endeavors to bind up the wounds of the war.

Mr. Speaker, we are all familiar with his career here. Suffice it to say that duty guided him in all his ways and acts in this Hall. We miss him from his accustomed place. His seat is vacant. We miss his valued counsels, his great labors, his cheerful presence, and the strength we reposed in him. Death found him, while life had seemed ever to place him in the discharge of his duty; still at his post, in the midst of his committee-room, discharging and prosecuting the duties of his committee, the arrow of death found him. The winter of his life had been reached; its fullness was completed; it was well finished, filled to the full measure of duty done. We bore him away to slumber in the soil of his adopted State.

And as Michigan, mourning Michigan, opened her arms to receive within her embrace all that remained of ALPHEUS S. WILLIAMS, to hold him forever in his final sleep, I can fancy that she kissed his cold forehead and said "No son hath served me more faithfully and more acceptably than thou."

There, in her fond breast may he sweetly rest. Ay,

> Soldier, rest; thy warfare o'er,
> Sleep the sleep that knows no waking;
> Dream of battle-fields no more,
> Days of danger, nights of waking.

Yes; softly, sweetly, sleep in the bosom of thy adopted State.

The flowers will bloom and the birds will sing above thee, and nature around thy last resting-place shall fling all the beauties that the changing seasons know. But no birdling's song, no flower's perfumed breath, shall be purer or sweeter than were the emanations of thy soul. And no sunset cloud nor line of life shall be more grand, more beautiful than the example which thou hast left us.

Mr. Speaker, we soon forget life's trials, all life's struggles, all life's achievements. But the majesty of death's seal impresses men's souls and dares them to forget. And such a life as that which we mourn to-day finished by death, shall live forever.

It was a heathen poet, I believe, who said:

> In the halls that our feasts illume,
> The rose for one hour may bloom;
> But the cypress that grows 'round the tomb,
> Ah! the cypress is green forever.

Address of Mr. Ellsworth, of Michigan.

Mr. Speaker: I am pleased to add my humble tribute to the memory of our lamented friend and brother.

Sir, we are standing where the graves of our fallen comrades of the present Congress are thick. The statesman full of years and experience has dropped out of the ranks and gone to a higher assemblage. The mature man, in the full bloom and blossom of life, has drifted away to the spirit land, and the boatman with the silent oar has

passed again, and the young man in his beauty and his glory has floated away to the other shore. Even while you look upon the man who comes in here full of hope and happiness, brimming over with energy and enterprise, anxious and ambitious to make for himself a name that will not die—while he stands before you in his pride, his life goes out, and he is gone forever. What a commentary on the pride and vanity of man.

> Oh, why should the spirit of mortal be proud?
> Like a swift-fleeting meteor, a fast-flying cloud,
> A flash of the lightning, a break of the wave,
> Man passes from life to his rest in the grave.
> * * * * *
> 'Tis the wink of an eye, 'tis the draught of a breath,
> From the blossom of health, to the paleness of death,
> From the gilded saloon to the bier and the shroud—
> Oh, why should the spirit of mortal be proud?

Why, sir, look around you, and see the silent resting-places of the dead. Here lies the great Senator and statesman from Indiana, so long the Boanerges of the Senate, whose war record has immortalized his name and will keep his memory green through the ages. The eyes of the millions loyal to the old flag are still wet with the tears his taking-off summoned from loving hearts. Here sleeps the silent form of the gallant and gracious Bogy, from the great State beyond the Mississippi; and here reposes all that is left of the educated and eloquent Leonard, the cultivated and classic gentleman from the Gulf, whose thoughts were wisdom and whose words were music; and here rests the manly and once majestic form of our hero, Major-General Alpheus S. Williams, the brave soldier and the wise and liberal-minded statesman, the gallant officer and the genial friend, the wise counselor and the knightly gentleman, the pure judge and the safe commander; and here, too, is the statesman from the land of flowers, the gifted and graceful gentleman from Savannah, the eloquent and accomplished Hartridge, whose praises are chanted

in mournful measure in the city he loved, and the loss sustained by his decease will press down upon the hearts that loved him with greater and greater force as the days roll on and the years sweep by.

And this is the resting-place of the once proud and pleasant gentleman from Old Virginia. Only a few years since and he was the great orator, the graphic speaker, the courtly gentleman, and the charming companion. Here, side by side, lie Quinn and Welch, good men and true, uniting the East and the West; and here is another, who has but just laid down his work. His voice still echoes in this Hall, we might almost believe, he was so recently with us, a distinguished and honored member. He, too, has laid his political burdens down and passed over the mysterious river.

The earnest and energetic Schleicher, the able and active statesman, the kind, consistent, and conservative gentleman, has whispered his last good-night to us and disappeared. Surely we are among the graves and speaking to the dead. Life, at such a time as this, seems of little consequence indeed. How vain the pomp and show of fashion; how false and foolish ambition doth appear; how more than useless and unworthy human strife.

When we behold the uncertainty of life, how like a dream it comes and goes! When we see the great, the good, the ambitious, and the proud cut down and gone as goes the fairest and frailest flower, blighted by a breath or breeze blown across the blossom—at such an hour we can forget the unkind word; the strife and struggle of debate are lulled to rest; the angry and acrimonious charge, preferred in the hour of prejudice or of passion, is regretted and recalled, forgiven and forgotten. Here and now no unhallowed thoughts come in to divide disturb, or distract us. Here and now the clamoring cry of political ambition is still; we are the best of friends just now. Here in the calm of death and in the sadness and silence of these green but grassless graves we are gentle and generous, grave and gracious.

Why, the very air is full of the spirit of kindness and of love. Why should it not be so to-morrow? Why should this gentle and loving spell speed away with the passing hour?

Why can we not cling to the sweet and sacred emotions begotten by this occasion, and allow them to guide us into paths of peace and ways of pleasantness, so that our friendship may be like the even and ever-flowing stream of deep and gentle motion?

Sectional bitterness and party strife have no place here. They dare not enter while such holy and hallowed thoughts are filling every heart and soul with the highest and holiest desires of the man and politician. If we could command this gentle spirit from the skies to stay with us, our country would be the gainer, and our statesmen would not lose thereby. And now, by these new-made graves, where lie the dead statesmen from the North and from the South, from the East and from the West, let us swear to put down forever sectional strife and bitterness, and bury deep the hatred of the past, and stand together under the old flag and be forever one.

And what shall we say of our departed friend and brother whose memory we come to celebrate to-day? What shall we say? Say he was every inch a man; an honest and honorable man; the noblest work of God, so the poet sang, and his numbers told the truth, and such a man was ALPHEUS S. WILLIAMS, whose home was in the lovely City of the Straits. What shall we say of him? Say he was the brave soldier and safe commander. I look back along the way he came and see him as he came from Yale, with the honors of the grim old college thick around his brow, flushed with expectations, beaming with young life and hope; hale and hearty, buoyant and busy with the future which lay all before him then, and he ready to enroll his name among the countless throng of competitors for the prizes to be won or lost in the race of life. I see him as he travels in distant lands beyond the seas; I see him return to his native country, cultured and refined by contact with the world beyond; I see him

step proudly on the wharf of the little city of Detroit, then but a Western village; I see him pleading with manly eloquence for his clients at the bar, in the pride and beauty of his young manhood; I behold his dignity on the judicial bench, wisely administering the laws of his adopted city and State, kindly and judiciously protecting the orphan and the widow.

I see him under the Stars and Stripes, marching with the boys in blue for the plains of Mexico; I see him on the burning sands of that torrid land, cheering the weary and fainting soldiers until they march triumphantly into the halls of the Montezumas; I see him there in the storm of battle, where the coward flees and the hero stands or falls; I see him marching home when the contest ended, with his good sword untarnished by one ignoble act, but bright and shining as the record he had made; I see him, too, in his mature and ripened manhood, when he heard his country's cry for help, and came bravely forth and stood under the banner of the free, when he went forth in defense of the Union to put down the mistaken and misguided men who dared to fire upon the flag our fathers loved and gave to us. I see in fancy the gleam of his eye amid the storm of battle, at Antietam and in the line of fire at South Mountain; I see his majestic form amid the surging waves of battle, as charge after charge swept round Round-top at bloody Gettysburgh, and hear his manly words to his brave boys at the city of Atlanta; and I see him beside his great captain on that wonderful march to the sea "when all the world wondered."

And behold him, on his triumphant way through the Carolinas, as he swept on to victory and to peace. I hear again the joyful bells pealing forth the glad tidings of a Union restored and re-established.

I look again, and he is coming home with his brave and gallant men—all that were left of them. I hear the huzzahs of his people as he stands once more in the charming city of his love, as he returned

to them from the red flame of battle, crowned with glory; and there is no one among all the thousands who throng to meet him but delights to do him honor.

He is their favorite son, and they welcome him with cannon, with music and banners and flowers.

I see him on his way to this Hall, sent here by the voice of his people he had so well served before; and I see him returned by an overwhelming vote, and from day to day in the quiet and industrious discharge of his arduous duties. As a legislator he worked in committee and in the House, always at his post, anxious and earnest in his labors, as all will testify who knew him well; and a more devoted and diligent friend of the District of Columbia never found his way into the Congress of the nation; and the people of the District may well deplore his loss, as we know they do. While on my own sick-bed I heard the sad tidings of his illness, and soon the startling news, "he is dead"; and he was gone. I hear the mournful music of the muffled drum, and the solemn dirge from the band floats out upon the quiet air. I see the solemn *cortege* bear away the cold still form of our friend to lay it sadly down among those who loved him best, because they knew him best. I see the vast throng of tearful souls stand round his bier, and listen to the muffled sobs, and sighs, and moans from stricken hearts. I see his body laid away by loving hands, so tenderly and so touchingly; and the melancholy pageant ends, and the curtain falls forever.

I recall an hour in this House which illustrates most strikingly the character of the man whose memory I fain would honor. When the silver bill came back to us with the veto of the President, General WILLIAMS came round to my table and, with that pleasant smile born of good-nature we shall remember so long, asked me how I was going to vote on the bill, and being answered to sustain the veto, he promptly replied, "So shall I; and I am glad I am not to stand entirely alone from Michigan." I then said to the General, "I fear

you may dig your political grave by thus doing." Drawing himself proudly up, he replied: "I think the President is right, and I will give him my vote though my political heavens fall." And whether right or wrong, so far as the wisdom of the measure was concerned, he was guided in that trying hour not by passion nor by party pressure, but by his well-considered judgment, and no party zeal could sway him from the path of duty as he read his duty. And that makes the honest man. There speaks the hero who could stand in the battle-storm at Gettysburgh with unblanched cheek where the wild shell screamed and the bullets sang. Thus acts the brave and honest man who knows no fear when in the path of duty listening to the language of an enlightened conscience.

Thus speaks the man who has such nobility of soul that he can rise above the clamor of political strife and stand for his country and his country's honor. Such a man is a priceless heritage to any nation, and his memory will never die; his name will be immortal as the stars. And such was the man we mourn to-day. May his mantle of nobility fall upon others who are to come after him to guide and fashion the destinies of the nation. Oh for a Congress of just such independent men, loving country more than party. Then the Republic would certainly endure. Then the ages as they come and pass would brighten and strengthen the golden chain that binds in one this sisterhood of States. Then the prosperity and perpetuity of the Union would be assured, and we should rest without a single fear as to the future glory of the Republic.

Alpheus S. Williams could sink the politician in the man and stand above the low and mean ambitions of the petty partisan. He could fling aside ambition when his country called; he could withstand the party cry, and stand bravely for that his judgment said was truth and right. And such a man is a glory to any nation, and it should be proud of him and hasten to crown him as her own.

I would honor such a man and keep his memory green forever.

And such was our hero and statesman who sleeps beside the majestic river he loved, in the beautiful city of the dead.

And we sing to him as he sleeps in the silent land, Tennyson's sad farewell to the stream of his youth, slightly transposed, and leave him to his rest:

Flow down grand river to the sea,
Thy tribute wave deliver;
No more by thee his steps shall be,
Forever and forever.

Flow, grandly flow, a crystal sea,
And then a river—
No more by thee his steps shall be,
Forever and forever.

By thee shall sigh thine alder-tree,
By thee thine aspen quiver;
And there by thee shall hum the bee,
Forever and forever.

A thousand suns shall shine on thee,
A thousand moons shall quiver—
No more by thee his steps shall be,
Forever and forever.

Address of Mr. Hamilton, of Indiana.

Mr. Speaker: There is an allegory which has the testimony of years as the one unsurpassed in any language. In his cell the grand old tinker saw a vision, which has delighted the schoolboy; and, like the Book of Books, is always new and always glorious to the man, while it opens up avenues of thought to the scholar and hands down along the lines of Time the sonorous old Anglo-Saxon.

In boyhood the character who was my friend, with whom I loitered along the highway and in whose presence I felt that life was sunshine and all its paths were paths of peace, was that noble conception of Bunyan drawn with a vigorous touch and a bold hand, Old Mr. Honest. The only portion of the character which I could not conceive of as being in keeping with the rest was that Honest must

necessarily be old. I fancied that honesty was always young; that sturdy Mr. Honest, even when about to cross the river, had preserved his youthful fire and the vigor of his early mandood. While I passed by other noble characters, drawn by that grand untutored English artist, I loved to walk by the side of Mr. Honest.

When I came to know the man who had honored Detroit I felt that my early conceptions were right—honesty is always young. What is youth? Some who are young in years are old in misery, old by reason of imbecility. There are, however, those who preserve through a long line of years that elasticity of thought, that vigor of intellect, that strength of mind which are supposed to be the portion only of those who are in the meridian of their days. How mysterious is this life! The crown of youth encircles the head which must shortly fall into the tomb. The imbecility and timidity of age enrobes those who are in their early manhood.

He whom to-day we eulogize had almost attained the full allotted period. "The days of our years are threescore years and ten." He died at sixty-eight years of age, and yet how firm, how vigorous, how constant. He was attracted by the young and daring; he drew toward him the youthful and the bold.

Honesty, nobility of character, seem to preserve the youthful vigor even when the shades are gathering in the west. When, full of hours, the day of a noble existence draws to a close, those who have known and loved its passing moments rejoice that its ending was like the evening of the mid-October days of the glorious western land which was loved so much. Few and short the gray clouds which dimmed the setting.

A German philosopher conceived of the soul or spirit as springing from the tomb as a flower. How gorgeous in tint, how sweet in odor, would be the flower which might spring from the grave of the noble spirit the ashes of whose body lie in the soil of the State which he has so highly honored.

ALPHEUS S. WILLIAMS made no speeches in Congress. It was to him a marvel that men sent to legislate for the nation would consume the time in making and expend vast sums in printing speeches for home consumption; would encumber the Record, which should not exceed the size of that of the golden age of American oratory and statesmanship, until it now, at each session, swells to six, seven, and eight volumes with speeches to which no one listens, and which no one reads, and which seem to have been made for the purpose of giving cheap wrapping-paper to the village grocer and the country newspaper. Does any one suppose that the vigorous intellect which was cased in the form known as ALPHEUS S. WILLIAMS could not have encumbered the Record with speeches, written in a few evening hours, which would have successfully vied with the best of those made in the Forty-fourth and Forty-fifth Congresses? But ALPHEUS S. WILLIAMS came not to Congress to make speeches for his constituents alone, to be over the sugar and under the twine, but to vote intelligently, to decide uprightly and impartially on great national questions.

Could constituents stand for a few days in the House of Representatives, they would have a different impression regarding the value of speeches from that which many members think they now have, and would honor the man who made none, and yet who might have stood among the foremost of those who make cheap reputation at home while retarding legislation and oftentimes neglecting or injuring the great interests of the country which they were elected to preserve and foster. Nor was he in the habit of asking questions for the purpose of getting his name in the Record. Nor did he take that other cheap and easy method of presenting himself to the public by constantly arising to "make a point of order." All of which he looked upon as means for the gratification of personal vanity, while acting as clogs on necessary legislation.

ALPHEUS S. WILLIAMS was seldom if ever out of his seat; knew

and weighed the measures which required the action of Congress, and formed his own opinions by the clear light of his unclouded brain. In my Congressional life it has been my privilege to have entered into the most friendly and intimate relations with men who would not have allowed a grain to soil the purity of their official hands. But yesterday, by my side, sat the man of firm resolves, of daring spirt, of most honest intentions. Gold and silver, place and power, were no allurements to him when thought, feeling, and action were to be bought by them unworthily. Strange anomaly! He could hate intensely, and yet no man seems to have entertained feelings of dislike to him; sterling honesty hating dishonesty, and yet the uprightness not even questioned by those who were denounced. Men whom he when living had detested were honored by being allowed to touch his coffin when his spirit, separated from his muscle, could not resent the insult.

During the four years which are soon to close I have seen the great doors of the portal swing open and seniors and juniors pass through, never to return in the flesh, but always to linger in memory's halls until they too shall molder.

Starkweather, Parsons, Kerr, Caperton, Bogy, Leonard, Morton, Quinn, Welch, Douglas, Williams, Hartridge, Schleicher! Of them all no grander spirit has crossed the bourn than that of the noble gentleman whose name will be mentioned when those of others may be forgotten. It is inseparably linked with great events; events which will live in the books of the school-boy and in the histories of the man; which have been and will be themes for the poet and the foundation of the romances of the novelist. Winchester, Cedar Mountain, South Mountain, Antietam, Chancellorsville, Gettysburgh, Atlanta, echo back the sound which comes from Vera Cruz and Mexico.

One of the bright spots in my life in Washington is that I have known the man who was always the same, always true, always firm,

always honest, always consistent. One who could not be turned from his convictions even though defeat stared him in the face; one always equal to emergencies which daunted others; one without whose aid, together with others like him, events would not have been as they are now recorded. The battle of Antietam was fought on September 17, 1862. How many names of those who were in the Thirty-seventh Congress can now be recalled? The name of ALPHEUS S. WILLIAMS is inseparably connected with the bloody fight of Antietam. Even his name might have been swallowed up in the general mass of civil and military officers of the time had he not been also connected with glorious triumphs of our country on foreign soil. He had been on bloody battle-fields before Texas had forgotten that the men of the North had determined that their support should be given to aid the Lone Star in keeping its place in the galaxy of nations.

Mr. Speaker, the heart of ALPHEUS S. WILLIAMS will never again send the warm blood to the hand which once grasped that of his friend. Yet why should we weep? He had almost filled the allotted period, near the threescore years and ten, and how nobly those years were rounded!

Ye sigh not when the sun, his course fulfilled,
  His glorious course, rejoicing earth and sky,
In the soft evening, when the winds are stilled,
  Sinks where his islands of refreshment lie,
And leaves the smile of his departure, spread
O'er the warm-colored heaven and ruddy mountain's head.

Why weep ye, then, for him, who, having won
  The bound of man's appointed years, at last,
Life's blessings all enjoyed, life's labors done,
  Serenely to his final rest has passed,
While the soft memory of his virtues yet
Lingers like twilight hues, when the bright sun is set.

ADDENDA TO SPEECH OF A. H. HAMILTON, GIVING MILITARY HISTORY OF GENERAL ALPHEUS S. WILLIAMS.

He was enrolled October 18, 1847, and mustered into service December 8, 1847, as lieutenant-colonel First Michigan Volunteers.

Left Detroit, Michigan, in January, 1848, with the second battalion of his regiment for Mexico; served with regiment in Mexico to June, 1848, and was honorably mustered out therewith at Detroit, Michigan, July 29, 1848.

He was appointed by the governor of Michigan, in April, 1861, brigadier-general of the troops of that State then enlisting for the war, and commanded the camp of instruction at Fort Wayne, Michigan, to September, 1861.

Commissioned brigadier-general of volunteers August 9, to rank from May 17, 1861, which he accepted August 26, 1861.

Service: Commanding third brigade, Banks's division, Army of the Potomac, from October 8, 1861, to March 20, 1862; first division, Fifth Corps, to April 12, 1862; first division, Department of the Shenandoah, to June, 1862; first division, Second Corps, Army of Virginia, to August 9, 1862; Second Corps, Army of Virginia, to August 31, 1862; first division, Second Corps, Army of Virginia, to September 3, 1862; Second Corps, Army of Virginia, to September 15, 1862; first division, Twelfth Corps, to September 17, 1862; Twelfth Corps, to October 20, 1862; first division, Twelfth Corps, to July 1, 1863; Twelfth Corps, to July 4, 1863; first division, Twelfth Corps, to April 5, 1864; first division, Twentieth Corps, to July 28, 1864; Twentieth Corps, to August 28, 1864; first division, Twentieth Corps, to November 11, 1864; Twentieth Corps, to April 4, 1865; commanding with the rank of brevet major-general (brevetted major-general January 12, 1865, for marked ability and energy, &c.) from January 12, 1865, first division, Twentieth Corps, to June 6, 1865, and provisional division to July 27, 1865, when he proceeded to his home, Detroit, Michigan, to await further orders.

From September 5 to November 26, 1865, he commanded the Ouchita district, Department of Arkansas, and from November 26, 1865, to January 9, 1866, the central district, Department of Arkansas.

Honorably mustered out of service January 15, 1866. He participated in the following engagements, namely, Winchester, Virginia, May 24–25, 1862; Cedar Mountain, Virginia, August 9, 1862; Antietam, Maryland, September 17, 1862; Germania Ford, Virginia, April 29, 1863; Chancellorsville, Virginia, May 1–3, 1863; Gettysburgh, Pennsylvania, July 1–3, 1863; Falling Waters, Maryland, July 14, 1863; Resaca, Georgia, May 14–15, 1864; New Hope Church, Georgia, May 25, 1864; Pine Mountain, Georgia, June 15, 1864; Kenesaw Mountain, Georgia, June 22, 1864; Peach Tree Creek, Georgia, July 20, 1864; campaigns in Georgia and Carolinas; Sherman's march to sea, November, 1864, to April, 1865; Averysborough, North Carolina, March 16, 1865; and Bentonville, North Carolina, March 19, 1865.

ADDRESS OF MR. STONE, OF MICHIGAN.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is not with the expectation of adding anything to what has already been said by my associates of the many virtues and manly qualities of the deceased, but rather for the satisfaction of my own feelings, that I rise to add one more brief tribute to the worth of my departed colleague.

My personal acquaintance with General WILLIAMS was quite limited in time and degree. The eventful history of his life and public service has been recited by those who knew him better and more intimately. From my brief intercourse and acquaintance with him I should say that he was a practical, able, matter-of-fact man, utterly abhorring and devoid of all mere pretension. He was laborious, careful, and painstaking in the performance of duty; true to his convictions and firm in his adherence to principle.

He was not a man much given to speech-making, and he never spoke unless he had something to say. His motto seemingly was, "be silent unless you can say something better than silence." In his place in this House he was never known to resort to the small arts of the demagogue. He was sometimes conservative when his political associates demanded radical changes in legislation. His action was controlled by his own judgment. His life was active.

He lived and acted at the most important period of our country's history, when the events of a century were compressed into a few years; and well and faithfully did he perform the duty of citizenship, and true and ardent was his devotion to his country, her honor, and her unity. He was true, just, honest, faithful, and patriotic. His was a noble patriotism, a patriotism that invigorates and elevates a country by noble acts; that does its duty quietly, bravely, and manfully. The world owes much to such true men of courage. It

is natural to believe in and to have confidence in them. They command the spontaneous homage of all.

Mr. Speaker, in the beautiful City of the Straits, where the departed statesman and general lived, the bells have tolled their farewell peals, the pall, the hearse, and the funeral procession have passed and gone. "Ashes to ashes and dust to dust" have been spoken, and to her maternal bosom the earth has folded his mortal remains.

This is the last act of ceremony. Bowing our heads to the will of an all-wise Providence, and striving to shun his few faults and emulate his many virtues, we commit the memory of ALPHEUS S. WILLIAMS to the affection of his friends who loved him, to the gratitude of his country he served and defended so well, and to the safe-keeping of history. He was a brave man, a good citizen, and a sincere patriot.

> He locked his lips too close to speak a lie,
> He washed his hands too white to take a bribe.

His death has called forth the warmest feelings of regret from all parts of the State of which he was an honored citizen; and political friends and opponents have united in expressions of admiration of his talents, manly worth, and distinguished public service. As expressive of the high esteem in which he was held by the State of his early adoption, I submit the proceedings had and resolutions adopted by the joint convention of both houses of the legislature of the State of Michigan on the occasion of the commemoration of his death.

Resolutions adopted by the senate and house of representatives of the Michigan legislature in joint convention assembled, January 29, 1879.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The joint committee appointed to report resolutions expressive of the sense of both Houses on the death of Major-General ALPHEUS S. WILLIAMS respectfully report:

That of the many deserving sons, native and adopted, whom Michigan has been called upon to mourn, General WILLIAMS stands pre-eminent in illustrating those qualities which adorn human character, and which should be the crowning attributes of the American citizen.

Coming to our State over forty-two years ago, a cultivated man, fresh from home and foreign travel, he commenced that career which endeared him to our people;

and after devoting most of his life to the service of the public, died full of honors and years, literally with the harness on, at his post as Representative of the first district of our State at Washington.

Filling successively the positions of judge of probate of Wayne County, recorder of the city of Detroit, editor of the Daily Advertiser, lieutenant-colonel of the First Michigan Volunteers in the Mexican war, postmaster at Detroit, member of the board of education, president of the State military board, and commander of the military camp of instruction at Fort Wayne, he acquitted himself in all these positions in such a manner as to secure the confidence of his fellow-citizens.

He had established a reputation as an upright man; as a journalist who, when the tone of our press was low, contributed to its elevation; as a gallant soldier; as an exact, diligent, and accommodating public servant; as a capable instructor, and as a public-spirited citizen. But though in this circumscribed sphere General WILLIAMS had won public confidence and regard, it was reserved for that hour of the nation's travail, the great rebellion, to illustrate those qualities which entitle him to the gratitude of the Republic and make his memory a matter of State pride.

Appointed brigadier-general of volunteers April 17, 1861, he took the field, and thenceforward was seldom absent from his command till the war closed.

Whether at the head of a regiment, a brigade, a division, or a corps; whether on the midwinter march across the Alleghanies, with thermometer below zero, or covering the retreat on Winchester with a single regiment before Stonewall Jackson's army; whether at the head of a corps at Antietam, where one-third of the trophies of the day rewarded his efforts, or again at Gettysburgh, where he commanded a corps, or on that fateful and dramatic march from the mountains to the sea, we always find him the thoughtful, considerate general, careful of the comfort of his men; the conscientious, stubborn fighter, using all the resources at his command; oblivious apparently of his personal deserts, never murmuring at injustice to himself, but strenuous and aggressive when those intrusted to his care were its object. If his mind had been cast in a less symmetrical mold, and his personal ambition not been subordinated to his sense of duty, he might have attained a higher rank in the service, but he never could have acquired as firm a hold as he possessed upon the affections of his men and the esteem of those who knew him.

Appointed by President Johnson minister to Salvador, he remained at his post until recalled, faithful and vigilant in guarding and sustaining the interests of his countrymen and the honor of the flag which he had upheld by his sword.

Elected twice from the first district to Congress, his course was inspired by the purest patriotism, guided by mature intelligence, and characterized by diligent and painstaking labor. In no sense a partisan, he dared to differ as a legislator, where his conscience so dictated, when to do so implied great fortitude and involved great personal sacrifice: Therefore,

Be it resolved, That the death of General WILLIAMS calls for an expression of sorrow and regret from our people, of more than ordinary character, and that such expression should be recognized and emphasized by their representatives assembled.

Second. That in his life, rounded out as it was by so many ennobling qualities,

marred by fewer defects than fall to the lot of most, always responsive to the call of public duty, equal to every emergency, free from assumption and arrogance, he presented the ideal type of the American citizen—in the highest sense a man without fear and without reproach.

Third. That the recollection of his many virtues should be held as a legacy more valuable than material wealth and his many services held in grateful remembrance by the people of this State and the Republic.

Fourth. That the sympathy of both houses is hereby respectfully tendered to his family.

Fifth. That these resolutions and this preamble be entered on the journal of both houses, and copies engrossed and sealed with the seal of the State and forwarded, one to his family and one each to our Senators and Representatives in Congress.

T. W. PALMER,
W. W. DUFFIELD,
Senate Committee.
E. W. COTTRELL,
E. P. ALLEN,
ANDREW JACKSON,
House Committee.

Address of Mr. Willis, of New York.

Mr. Speaker: Homage to the dead is a virtue peculiar to no age or people. When a friend or companion, even in the ordinary course, reaches life's limit, an impulse, honorable to humanity, causes us to halt, and with sorrowing hearts measure the loss we have sustained. Such is the purpose of this hour. The man whose death we mourn in many respects was remarkable; his loss belongs not alone to us, but to the entire country. His life is history. Living in a period crowded with grand events, both in war and in peace, it was his enviable fortune to identify himself with such of them as yield luster undimmed and imperishable upon this country.

On the 20th day of December last, at the foot of yonder slope, in full view of this magnificent Capitol, expired in peace and glory, attended by his saddened family and friends, Alpheus S. Williams, of Michigan. The verdict of his constituency was reversed by Omnis-

cient degree. He was permitted to experience a felicity most acceptable to a patriot, to die in the service of a country he idolized.

He was born in 1810, in the staid and ancient Commonwealth of Connecticut, when the Republic was less populous than the States of New York and Connecticut are to-day. While he yet lived it swelled into the proportions of a vast territorial empire, peopled with more than forty millions of freemen.

Fortune uniformly befriended him. Favored with a collegiate education at Yale, where he graduated in 1831, also with a professional training at a law school connected with that venerable institution; informed and enlightened by three years of European travel, he had rare advantages, which doubtless contributed largely to the successes of his subsequent life.

Soon after his return in 1836, yielding to an adventurous disposition, he parted company with the old-fashioned, conservative, slow-traveling people of his native State and settled in Michigan, then sparsely settled by the Caucasian, an outpost of civilization, made it his residence for life, and began the practice of the legal profession. Whether he was an acute lawyer or eloquent advocate we have no means of declaring, but such was his success and such the confidence he enjoyed that in less than four years he was a judge of probate, then an alderman, then recorder. While holding the latter position, controlled by what circumstances I know not, he engaged in a newspaper enterprise, becoming both editor and proprietor of the Detroit Daily Advertiser. The paper was conducted with ability. His trusts he had discharged with satisfaction and credit.

In 1847 the United States inaugurated hostilities against Mexico. The instant the first trumpet-blast invited to arms, this young lawyer and editor exemplified the virtues which grace and dignify his after life; he readily sacrificed position, comfort, home, and enlisted for the war, was chosen lieutenant-colonel of the First Michigan Volunteers, and during that struggle rendered heroic service, distinguishing

himself for both prudence and valor. On his return from a campaign unexceled in glory, unexampled in success, he was appointed postmaster of Detroit, and acceptably acted in such capacity for four years, ending 1853, after which he served as member of the board of education, devoting himself unselfishly and laboriously to the welfare and enlightenment of the young. A few years after, when rebellion thundered its echoes and launched its darts at the national life, no patriot in the land repaired to the war with hotter zeal than General WILLIAMS, no one served the Republic with truer faith or more courageous devotion, and few with greater ability than he as division and corps commander. In death's plenteous harvest he plucked laurels at South Mountain, Antietam, and Gettysburgh, at the siege of Atlanta, and in that marvelous march through Georgia from its capital to the seaboard.

He was not only a brave but a patient soldier, never fault-finding, never despairing of the Republic. He continued to wield his sword until a victory more glorious than any achieved by earth's warriors was secure—a Union restored and liberty the heritage of every man, woman, and child shadowed by the flag; a victory accepted as such by both victors and vanquished; a victory of the Republic which in the phrase of Rome's great orator is the common parent of us all. General WILLIAMS possessed a soul unpoisoned by envy, ungalled by hate. "He forgot in peace the injuries received in war."

When peace was pronounced by the glad herald of mercy, and all the logical sequences of war were put beyond peril by constitutional amendment, he hailed his late foe as brother, unfurled the white banner of charity and demanded peace between the sections, insisted that we should erect to forgiveness an altar reaching to the skies, around which should gather in honest accord the sons of the North and the South, and there reverently vow eternal fidelity to liberty and Union, 'neath which should be deep-buried all the hates and prejudices engendered by opposing systems of labor and intensified

by the fury of a war. To this end he demanded that the Constitution's limitations and restraints, disregarded through necessity in war, should be restored in peace; that taunts and sneers were unpatriotic, ungenerous, and unmanly; that a real victory should be grasped by extending to every man, whether Federate or Confederate, the hand of sincere brotherhood.

And herein is General WILLIAMS especially to be glorified in the grateful remembrance of his countrymen; herein he lifted himself above the ordinary plane of humanity, and wisely instructed the people. None can distrust his patriotism, and yet he seized with equal readiness the hand loyal and disloyal, and mourned alike over loyal and disloyal slain. He deemed valor and self-sacrifice supreme virtues, though exemplified in a cause he condemned. He accorded to others that honesty of conviction which was an attribute of his own life, recognizable in all his acts. God grant that in this respect his example, like that of Wolfe's, "may have a magnet's force," and be heeded by our entire people; and then we shall enjoy a peace which even angels will celebrate—a certain pledge of Union and liberty for ages.

Mr. Speaker, the virtues of General WILLIAMS were well understood. His life belies the doubtful proverb that "republics are ungrateful." Immediately after his muster-out from the Army he was appointed commissioner to adjust the military claims of Missouri. This duty, requiring honesty, judgment, and capacity, was most thoroughly and satisfactorily executed. Soon after he was commissioned minister of the United States to Salvador, which trust he discharged with credit and decorum. Upon his return to his home new honors were accorded him. He was elected a member of Congress for two terms, and would have been to a third had not a disruption occurred in his own party, doubtless due to his steadfast adherence to what he believed to be sound principles of finance.

While here he rejoiced in the esteem and confidence of all his

associates. He served upon important committees and was charged with grave responsibilities. Conscientiously and efficiently he bore them. In legislative life his most noticeable trait was independence, in which he rose far above many supposed to be intellectually his superiors. He was wedded to his party, but did not worship it; he recognized it simply as an agency through which just measures of policy could be enforced in the administration of government. When in his judgment it failed to subserve this purpose he disregarded its behests. He never yielded to the command of a caucus the right to exercise his individual judgment or permitted his manhood to be cramped and warped by party discipline—a characteristic which thoughtful men will not hesitate to commend as a virtue, though hot partisans are apt to impute it as a fault.

That party cannot endure long or nobly which exacts unthinking obedience from its votaries and condemns their consciences to serfdom. He who hesitates to protest when his party is wrong is its enemy, though wearing the guise of friend. Heed, then, this hint, the lesson his life enforces: break the chains of partisanship whenever the honor and welfare of the Republic requires; subordinate always party policy to truth and justice. Another virtue inherent in his character, and consequently a feature of his political career, was his intense hatred of that despicable compound of hypocrisy and selfishness known as the demagogue. Fawning and sycophancy, those odious factors in American politics, he was an entire stranger to. Always manly and outspoken, it was enough for him to have a consciousness that a measure was right or wrong to support or to oppose it.

He did not flatter "his sworn brother, the people," or put on the gown of humility to gain attachment and acquire power. Without question he valued popularity, but only as a requital for faithful, conscientious service. Possessing real virtues, he had no occasion to affect or parade pretended ones. Many of our public men are as servile to popular caprice as was Polonius to Hamlet, when he could

see in a cloud, according to suggestion, a camel, or a weasel, or a whale. Oh, that none would be deemed worthy high station save steadfast patriots, who in the exercise of sworn duties disdain the atrocious, destructive arts of demagogism. Because in General WILLIAMS can be found a true pattern for such reform have I given prominence to this loud-speaking virtue transparent in his life of laborious and patriotic service.

The private life of General WILLIAMS was not less admirable than his public career; his domestic qualities not less sterling and genuine than his public virtues. He was a man, full grown, exulting in that even threefold development—heart, intellect, and body—which God intended should be attained.

As a friend of ALPHEUS S. WILLIAMS, as a comrade of his in battle, as his companion in this House, I welcome this opportunity of estimating his worth as a citizen, as a soldier, as a legislator.

If we accept the Epicurean maxim—

Post mortem, nulla voluptas,

it would behoove us to shed unavailing tears that our brother has departed. If death were the end of all, indeed our grief would be inconsolable; but the creed of the heathen has yielded to one higher and holier. We rejoice in the belief, and have a thorough conception of its truth, that—

There is no death! What seems so is transition;
This life of mortal breath
Is but a suburb of the life elysian,
Whose portal we call death.

Let us, rather than indulge a sorrow that profiteth not, recall him as that friend who never betrayed a friendship; as that patriot who welcomed danger whenever his country was imperiled; as that citizen who, whether in private or public life, discharged with fidelity every trust; as that Christian who throughout his life exemplified a practical

Christianity; finally, as a man courageous, honest, true, whose character is marred by no taint and whose career reflects every virtue.

It can be justly said of him he was born not merely to fill up an empty space on the earth, but for a purpose; that his existence was not an idle vanity, but a real boon to mankind. We may conceive that in bidding adieu to the world our friend in ecstacy declared:

> 'Tis a blessing to live, but a greater to die;
> And the best of the world is its path to the sky.

It is fashionable in this world of ours when one passeth away to descant in this melancholy strain: "When his body perisheth, man is no more; he fades from memory, and it is as though he had not been." There is no warrant for this mournful philosophy in any law, physical or moral. In the economy of God what is good cannot die. Good actions are seeds deep sown, and, as Southey says:

> Sometimes the shoot is choked with weeds or withers on a stone;
> But in a kindly soil it strikes its root
> And flourisheth, and bringeth forth abundant fruit.

It is no mean and vulgar condition to be born in the image of a God. ALPHEUS S. WILLIAMS so upheld himself as not to shame that image. Therefore—

> He lives in glory, and his speaking dust
> Has more of life than half its breathing moulds.

ADDRESS OF MR. SLEMONS, OF ARKANSAS.

Mr. SPEAKER: If the name and fame of ALPHEUS S. WILLIAMS were not the common heritage of the American people, I should on this occasion content myself simply by uncovering my head and remaining silent as the mournful *cortege* passes. Were those who loved him most, and who now vent their woes in secret, present to

speak, I would not come between them and the dead hero. Sir, in one short month the darkest shadow of widowhood and the deepest wail of orphanage which ever entered this Hall has been seen and heard by all of us. In that brief space of time the startling announcement "he is dead," like the fire-bell by night, has broken upon this House four times, awakening and calling us again to witness the cumulative evidence that every beating pulse is an additional note in the funeral march to the great hereafter, about which we believe so much and know so little, and that none may escape the remorseless enemy of all life; the king on his throne, the peasant in his hovel, are alike doomed.

> And that nightly we pitch our moving tent
> A day's march nearer home.

Sir, I keenly distrust my ability to express in fitting terms, with the barren language at my control, my high appreciation of the heroic life of ALPHEUS S. WILLIAMS. Whether at the head of his conquering columns, cheered on by the rallying cry of his comrades, or side by side with his counciling brothers in this Hall, his every act was characterized by a devotion to the right. He was as retiring in council as he was conspicuous in war, at all times retaining a strong hold upon the loftier affections of the citizen and the soldier. When fratricidal war had ended, his hand no longer grasped the blade, but seized the flag of his country beneath and around which the conquering and the conquered could rally and forget the terrible past.

In him was beautifully blended the sublime courage of the soldier and the exalted patriotism of the statesman. In him the partisan was lost in the patriot; the hand that struck the conquering blow reached forth to rescue the vanquished from the despoiler.

And now, while all that is mortal of ALPHEUS S. WILLIAMS rests in a lonely grave, drowned by the storms of winter, he is present and lives in every heart in which the sound of a generous footfall finds

a generous welcome. He bivouacs on that eternal camping-ground, awaiting the verdict of stern but impartial history.

It is not, sir, for me to enter the charmed circle of the domestic hearth-stone to inquire whether he contributed to the luster of those gentle and lofty virtues which cluster there; this I leave to the faithful biographer who may by courtesy inquire of the stricken ones of the domestic life of the husband and father.

Although the chain that bound him to us has been broken, still its dissevered links lie in sparkling ruin about us. The unlettered peasant may rush to battle with a death-menacing impetuosity, his faithful cheek unblanched, while the treacherous statesman may falter when confronted with a solemn public duty. The head that is turned by the laurels of the soldier will bow at the shrine of power. The civic chieftain who retires amid the plaudits of a grateful people wins a triumph much loftier than the battle-scarred veteran of a hundred fields returning amid the greetings of a maddened populace. This highest ambition our friend had achieved; this assured he "laid him down to die," and while frail dust that furnished him a dwelling-place for so long now rests secure from the bolts of war, I trust his good name is ransomed from the breath of calumny.

A hero in the cause of truth
And elemental strife,
His armor buckled on in youth
He laid aside with life.

Thus has fallen another of the gallant spirits who carried the flag of our country to the gates of Mexico, and laid at the feet of an ungrateful nation the glittering empire on the Pacific slopes. And, though he is dead, his appeals for justice to his intrepid companions of 1846 will linger near until the hisses of scorn with which his comrades are met shall be silenced, and long-delayed justice be meted out to them.

At a time like this the country could illy spare one like him. He had the courage to rebuke tyranny in the ruler and licentiousness in

the people, and for which he was ostracised politically by the people for whom he had given and received so many blows.

He is dead.

Can it be the manly voice,
Whose tones so oft have stirred
And bid the patriot's heart rejoice,
Shall never more be heard?

The SPEAKER. The question, then, is upon the adoption of the resolutions offered by the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. HUBBELL].

The question being taken, the resolutions were unanimously agreed to; and then, in accordance with the last resolution, the House (at ten o'clock and thirty-five minutes p. m.) adjourned.

PROCEEDINGS IN THE SENATE.

FEBRUARY 21, 1879.

A message from the House of Representatives, by Mr. GEORGE M. ADAMS, its Clerk, communicated to the Senate the intelligence of the death of Mr. ALPHEUS S. WILLIAMS, late a member of the House from the State of Michigan, and transmitted the resolutions of the House thereon.

Mr. FERRY. I move that the business of the Senate be suspended that the resolutions of the House of Representatives announcing the death of Mr. WILLIAMS, a Representative in that body from the State of Michigan, be read in order that fitting tribute be paid to the public virtues and private worth of the deceased.

Mr. WITHERS. I withdraw the motion for an executive session.

Mr. EDMUNDS. I yield to its being withdrawn.

Mr. FERRY. I ask that the resolutions of the House be read.

The Secretary read as follows:

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
February 20, 1879.

Resolved, That this House has heard with deep regret of the death of Hon. ALPHEUS S. WILLIAMS, a member of this House from the State of Michigan.

Resolved, That as a testimony of respect to his memory the officers and members of this House will wear the usual badge of mourning for the space of thirty days.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted by the Clerk of this House to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That the Clerk be directed to communicate a copy of these proceedings to the Senate, and that as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased this House do now adjourn.

Mr. FERRY. Mr. President, in view of the resolutions just read, I

send to the desk and move the adoption of the resolutions which I ask to have read.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan moves the adoption of the resolutions which will be read.

The Secretary read as follows:

Resolved, That the Senate receives with sorrow the announcement of the death of Hon. ALPHEUS S. WILLIAMS, late a member of the House of Representatives from the State of Michigan, and tenders to the family and kindred of the deceased the assurance of sympathy under their sad bereavement.

Resolved, That as a mark of respect for the memory of the deceased the members and officers of the Senate will wear the usual badge of mourning for thirty days.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate be directed to transmit to the family of General WILLIAMS a certified copy of these resolutions.

ADDRESS OF MR. FERRY, OF MICHIGAN.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Like a consecration to the living is the remembrance of the dead. This Capitol, these Halls, where the strong pulses of the nation beat, are hallowed by the memories of distinguished men who have devoted their best powers to the service of their country and for the welfare of mankind. As we stand here to-day the shades of the departed seem gathering around us. Forms and faces reappear to look once more upon the theater where they acted conspicuous part in the history of the Republic.

To the roll of patriot citizens we are now called to add another name—

> One of the few, the immortal names,
> That were not born to die—

General ALPHEUS STARKIE WILLIAMS. He was born in Saybrook, Connecticut, September 20, 1810; graduated from Yale College in

1831; was a student of law at New Haven for two years thereafter, and for three years following traveled extensively in Europe. On his return from abroad he moved to Detroit and became a member of the bar in that city. While not yet thirty years old he was chosen judge of probate for Wayne County, and for four years ably and satisfactorily discharged the duties of his office. He was alderman of Detroit in 1843, and recorder of that city in 1844. He was proprietor and editor of the Detroit Daily Advertiser from 1843 to 1848.

For many years he was connected with a number of local organizations of his adopted city, always to the close of life retaining the confidence and esteem of his associates. He was the founder and first commander of the Detroit Light Guard at a time when public apathy in military affairs was almost unbroken, and to him, perhaps more than to any other, was due the life and discipline of the militia system of the State. He was made lieutenant-colonel of the First Michigan Volunteer Regiment in the Mexican war. He held the office of postmaster at Detroit from 1849 to 1853; was a member of the Detroit board of education in 1856–'57, and was also president of the military State board and commander of the military camp of instruction at Fort Wayne. On the surrender of Fort Sumter in April, 1861, he was among the first to answer to his country's call. Early commissioned by President Lincoln a brigadier-general of volunteers in the Army of the Union, when the life of the nation was in peril he moved in the van of its defenders. He commanded the Twelfth Army Corps in the battles of South Mountain, Antietam, and Gettysburgh, and the Twentieth Corps in the siege of Atlanta, and thenceforward on the famous march to the sea and the closing campaign of the Carolinas.

After the grand review at Washington he was ordered to the command of a military district in Arkansas, and while at home on leave in June, 1866, was honorably discharged. Soon after he was appointed by President Johnson on the commission to examine the war

claim, of the State of Missouri, and in the autumn of that year was sent as minister resident to the Republic of Salvador. This honorable station was held till December, 1869. In 1874 he was elected a Representative to Congress from the first district of Michigan, and was re-elected in 1876 by a most flattering vote of his constituents. On his entrance in the House of Representatives he was made chairman of the Committee for the District of Columbia, which difficult and responsible position he held to the day of his death. He was presiding over his committee when smitten with the malady which ended his life.

From this bare outline of a career of nearly seventy years may we not safely judge of the nature and character of the man, his varied experience, his notable ability, his unswerving integrity, his stainless honor, his restless energy, his sternness of purpose, his fidelity to duty, his inflexible patriotism, his rare unselfishness, his gentleness of spirit and generosity of soul. The story of all this is treasured in the archives of various organizations, courts of law, editor's sanctum, and municipal, State, and national governments, but more than all in the grief of a stricken family and in the sympathizing hosts of friends, his companions in arms, and in the civic honors bestowed by a grateful people.

The citizen whose death can make a nation mourn, justly deserves the title of noble manhood. His obsequies, both at this Capital, whose people he had served so well, and in his adopted State and city, where they knew him best, and where nothing was left undone to pay fitting tribute to his fame, all tell of the high esteem in which he was held by his fellow-countrymen.

The noble letter of the General of the Army, written after his last parting with the dead soldier, bears ample testimony to this. General Thomas wrote of him: "There is one man on whom I can always depend, that solid old fighter, General WILLIAMS." The men in rank and file with whom he marched and bivouacked through four long

years of bloody war, and who loved the very ground on which he trod, tell us what they thought of him when with an impulse they joined to seize the fondest title of the Roman Pontiff and place it on their general's brow. The sages of the State, men who had been his rivals as well as those who were his allies in every popular contest, vied with one another to do him public reverence; and, to complete his praise, the people of this District, gathering around his bier, resolve to lay upon his breast the garland of their gratitude. What nobler proof of merit could the expiring patriot have?

When a man through a long life of ceaseless activity shows himself equal to every emergency he is called to meet, when he feels no aspiration but that of fidelity to his trust, the good of his country, and the happiness of his kind, when such a man in a time of severe pressure and in an age of speculation, can rise and say, "I cannot leave my children the wealth of gold, but I can and will leave them an untarnished name"; and when from all sides and from every quarter, with one mind and with one voice, it is affirmed that he has kept his word, I know not what others may think, but for myself I must ascribe to such a man the meed of mental and moral greatness.

> Order is Heaven's first law, and this confessed,
> Some are and must be greater than the rest.

Greater it may be in rank or office, but not greater in all the elements which make up a sterling manhood. That love of order which has been impressed upon American institutions is that which dignifies our nature and rests uponen during foundations. The Republic has been the prolific mother of men who have adorned the highest station and who have met the demands of the honored place to which a gracious Providence has assigned them. Such an one was the man for whose memory I speak to-day. There is here no room for partisan feeling or words, nor if there were, would I, if I could, any cherish or invoke. We are Americans all, sons of a common country, rejoicing in the achievements of a world-embracing brotherhood, and

holding up for emulation every conspicuous example of the spirit of our institutions, and for imitation every worthy type of the American people. In analyzing the qualities of such a citizen we most readily trace the influences of his youth, the forces by which he grew to manhood, and the events that distinguished and completed his life. He came of the early New England Puritan stock, a stock which flippant critics delight to stigmatize and decry, but if there is any one element in our national race that has contributed to the greatness and stability of the Republic we must surely find it in the simple habits, the manly virtues, and stern religious faith of that same old Puritan origin. Educated in the sentiments and convictions of such a community, and imbibing the very spirit of institutions which confer so much of liberty with so much of self-restraint, what else was he to do, when in maturer years the storm arose that rocked the nation to its very center, but to enlist as soldier and die a patriot.

That storm, fanned by no man nor set of men, by no party nor clique of party, by no State nor body of States, but driven by the collision of elements which no earthly power could control, compelled many to feel and deplore the cause, while unable themselves to resist the force that made them a part and portion of the destructive tempest. Among them all none had a keener insight or a clearer comprehension than this heroic man who in the circles of private friendship was gentle and yielding as a child, but when danger threatened threw himself among the foremost, and lion-hearted rode in the deadliest of the strife.

Though he rose from the citizen soldiery and had not the prestige of a rank in the regular Army, notwithstanding he fancied not the grim visage of war, but rather chose the arts and tranquillities of peace, yet from the moment that he saw the Union must be saved at whatsoever cost, he never for an instant faltered nor followed. It mattered little to him to what post of duty or danger he might be assigned; wherever he was he did the work before him and did it with all his

might. In winter's frost and summer's heat, over northern mountains or across southern morasses, in the rapid transit, the deadly siege, and charge of ghastly battle, he was ever ready, ever true, always calm, an inspiration to his comrades, and a stalwart of defense. Through the whole of that great uprising, the enthusiasm of partings and mist of tears, of marshaling hosts, of weary marches, of bloody strife, of pains and griefs which made the very heart of the nation sick, he firmly held his way, while not a shadow of doubt nor suspicion ever fell upon him. His pathway is as clear as the morning light, and when the conflict was over and the Union saved, like a hero of the noblest type he laid aside the sword and gracefully returned to the pursuits of civil life. Who can tell the measure of his example in this single fact? It was the surprise of Europe that half a million men—the veterans of a gigantic war—should silently fold their tents, lay down their arms, and turn away to walks of civic life so well content. Nor was he less conspicuous in the punctillious care, ability, and fidelity with which he accomplished the tasks which subsequent occasions imposed upon him. In his mission to Central America and in his Congressional career he displayed qualities which have endeared him to all with whom he had to do.

When he assumed the chairmanship of the House Committee for the District of Columbia it was at a time of transition in the affairs of the District and was a trust taxing the energies of the stoutest heart. From every quarter arose the murmur of dissatisfaction, allegation, distrust, and confusion. The people groaned under burdens suddenly cast upon them. All confidence was undermined and the cloud of adversity hung over the troubled community. In this difficult, and I may add formidable condition of things, this chairman of the House committee, by his honesty, patience, urbanity, and fairness, gained to himself the public confidence and respect. He showed himself the zealous worker, the wise counselor; the friend and father of this community. It was amid the toils and cares of his committee-

room, which had become almost like the shrine of the people's faith, that he sank beneath the stroke against which at last there is no shield for man.

General WILLIAMS was ever the courteous gentleman, the generous friend, the magnanimous partisan. He never descended to arts that are vulgar and mean. He held his superiors always in respect, and to his inferiors he was ever affable and kind. Thoughtless of himself, he was scrupulously careful of the interests of others, and especially of the poor and weak. The kindness of his nature broke out on every side. In the five years of his editorial life he scarcely ever forgot the dignity of his profession or the responsibility of that great power which an untrammeled press wields in a free land like ours. The chicanery and venality which always mar instead of helpthe journalism of the day filled him with dismay. Well would it be for all who aspire to wield an influence through the agency of the press to imitate his virtues and take wholesome lesson from his eminent example.

No man, indeed, is free from imperfections that mar our common nature; and so I do not speak of him as above all criticism. Whatever there may be, if any, of that, it can never obscure the radiance of his good qualities, the splendor of his devotion to the highest welfare of his country, and the share he took in those heroic services which saved the Union and restored concord and happiness to the Republic of which he was so proud.

In his death the nation has been bereaved, and Michigan, my own honored State, whose cherished people know so well how to value and how to reward the services of faithful sons; and that City of the Straits, in whose sacred Elmwood his ashes now repose; and the stricken family where, most of all, he was beloved—all, all, most deeply mourn his loss. Happy shall we be if at the close of a life as eventful as his we may leave behind us as dear a memorial and a name as precious in the grateful and undying affection of those who shall survive us.

Address of Mr. Dawes, of Massachusetts.

Mr. President: General Williams was of New England stock and training. Born in the old town of Saybrook, Connecticut, in 1810, of lineage going back in the purest Puritan blood to the earliest settlers of one of the oldest and straitest of the towns of that Commonwealth, he acquired his early education after the goodly manner of that time, under the parental roof and in the country school-house. By industry and diligence outgrowing the opportunities thus offered, by the help of recitations to the minister of the town and the occasional select school, he was fitted for Yale College at the age of seventeen, and graduated from that institution at twenty-one. Two years at the law school in New Haven and three years of subsequent travel in Europe finished his course of preparation for active life. Henceforth and somewhere not as yet determined was to be tried in the conflict of life what manner of man would come of such muscle thus trained.

It is obvious that under auspices like these at best very little could have been gathered for future use which did not come of untiring labor, and that toil was to be, in an uncommon degree, the measure of acquisition. And yet these apparently scanty opportunities were no mean instrumentality in fitting for his future one to whom men and things from the habits of his mind and the circumstances of after life were, more than books, to be his teachers. The little town in which he was born, hardly seven miles by six, one among hundreds such in New England, was an arsenal for the equipment with all practical and useful weapons and armor of men going forth to pull down and build up, to war with old errors and enforce new truths wherever they should pitch their tent. This little town had been, as it is still, for more than a hundred and fifty years a republic or

pure democracy, governed in all its local affairs by laws of its own making, quite as clearly defined and as sensible as any we are engaged in enacting here. Twice each year all its citizens assembled in town meeting for debate, for deliberation, and for the determination of what they deemed the public good, and for the choice of officers to enforce their enactments, conducting all things with the authority and dignity of a parliament. Into this school the youth was led by his father, and in it, listening and learning, he grew up to manhood a legislator. Its people were soldiers as well as legislators. For near two hundred years toiling in the field with weapons of defense in one hand, or in fortification, still standing within the limits of the town, defending their homes, first from the savages of the wilderness and afterward from those at war with their country, they transmitted in their blood and inspired by their example the love of military life and pursuits in all their young men. Over all this life religion, as understood in that day, maintained a strict and sleepless watch; and all the people squared their daily walk and conversation by its teachings. "The Saybrook platform" was the formula into which the really liberal and all-embracing principles of their religion had been cramped and crowded; but, nevertheless, they, young and old, subscribed and maintained it with a simple and sincere faith.

This was the school in which the boyhood of General Williams was passed, and thus equipped in that education which comes from the practical conduct of affairs, supplemented with the advantages of college life and foreign travel, this young man at twenty-six sought in the new and unpeopled West a field of labor not open to him among the old and established institutions of his native State. He turned from the old to the new—left what had been to join those who were to shape what was yet to be. How much he took with him and how well prepared he was to take rank among the *conditores gentium* who forty years ago marched out of New England and other of the old

Northern States well-nigh like an army, and took possession of the rich opportunities and grappled with the unmeasured possibilities then dimly recognized in the West, all his after life has borne ample testimony. He made his home and begun his life-work at Detroit while Michigan was yet a Territory. There were scarcely one hundred thousand inhabitants where now are near two millions in a great and powerful State represented in the national House of Representatives by eight members; a State whose limits embrace and whose institutions cover a domain twelve times as great as the State which gave him birth—an empire amid a system of empires wholly unknown in that day. In the service of this people he began and ended the work allotted to him to do; and in that work the preparation of his early manhood told like equipment and discipline of the soldier before entering action. He started out from the vantage-ground of experience in practical affairs under institutions which had borne the test of trial, and contributed largely from their grandest elements in the building up of new ones among the people with whom he had come to dwell.

As the State increased in population and wealth he was constantly called into her service in every variety of public trust, civil, military, and judicial. He stood with her young men, as his ancestors had done before him, in defense of her borders against the Indians. He led her volunteers in the Mexican war, and won renown as the commander of a corps on the battle-fields of the rebellion. He represented the nation at foreign courts in the diplomatic service of his country, and his State in the Congress of the United States.

Whatsoever position of trust he filled, to whatever post of honor or danger he was called, or office of difficulty or responsibility he assumed, courage, ability, and fidelity stamped all he did. His last service was as a Representative in Congress, and in that work he died. We are witnesses to his people of his conscientious discharge of every duty devolving on him as their Representative. We know, too, the moderation and wisdom of his counsel, and the large and

salutary influence he exerted, but we cannot measure the loss his State and the nation have suffered in his death.

General WILLIAMS commanded the esteem and won the regard of all who knew him. The soldier in the camp, on the march, and in the peril of battle, looked up to, loved, trusted, followed, and fought for him with absolute devotion. His neighbors were his friends, his fellow-citizens were his companions, and his associates walked arm and arm with him. He was the charm of the social circle, and was welcomed at every feast. Some of us well remember one of these occasions not long since which crowds into the recollections of this hour; an occasion when, with delightful simplicity and gladness of spirit, the venerable statesman, laying aside for the time his years, became the enthusiastic student, and, like the old soldier, recounted the contests and conflicts of long-gone college days, captivating all listeners and winning all hearts.

We stand to-day at the end, looking back upon a long life rounded out with labor diligently performed and duties faithfully discharged. Those among whom that life began and was fitted for its work join those for whom its matured and ripened faculties were spent, in paying tribute to its worth, and in mourning that it is ended.

ADDRESS OF MR. COCKRELL, OF MISSOURI.

Mr. PRESIDENT: General ALPHEUS S. WILLIAMS, the gentleman, friend, patriot, and soldier, has traversed the appointed pathway of life on earth, met the all-conquering foe of man, and passed from the labors, duties, and responsibilities of life to the silent grave. To-day the Senate, one branch of the Congress of which he was a useful and honored member, turns from its pressing duties to pay a fitting tribute to the life, services, and memory of the departed legislator.

The life he led and the services he performed are all the legacies

he could bequeath to his surviving countrymen. In fact they are the only legacies any of us can leave. When we examine these legacies and find that the life has been active, earnest, exemplary, and consistent, and the services well-timed, practical, and useful, we hold them in kindly remembrance and pay willing tribute and point to them as foot-prints on the sands of time.

> Foot-prints that perhaps another,
> Sailing o'er life's solemn main
> A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,
> Seeing, shall take heart again.

Historians and biographers love to trace in beautiful colors the lineage of those whose lives have been heroic and whose services have been eminent and patriotic.

Grace is added to virtue when it descends from sire to son; and the legacy of a spotless name is bequeathed with increasing splendor to succeeding heirs.

The common-sense of the American people discriminates with marked sagacity and exactness between the counterfeit and the true. The veneration natural to us resents the fraud of a mere name without the real worth it should represent, and turns with lofty disdain from him who attempts to gild vice and weakness with the luster of his name prostituted in its use; but bows with deference, sealing its legitimacy, when that name adds to the virtues first distinguishing it.

The longest pedigree must have a beginning, and the chief glory belongs to the founder of a family name, whose impress of character descendants love to preserve. The glory of honoring and perpetuating a name can never be superior to the glory of first drawing it from obscurity.

Our peculiar and distinctive system of government is continually bringing out in bold relief the comparatively unknown to positions of honor, usefulness, and influence among their countrymen, and thus inspiring every youth with the truth that "every man is the architect of his own fortune," and that, although his name was never

borne with "chant of heraldry" along the aisles of the drowsy past, he has before him the superior glory "of being born only of himself" and of attaining every honor and position merited by his virtues and worth. General WILLIAMS was born at Saybrook, Connecticut, September 20, 1810; graduated from Yale College in 1831, chose the law for his profession, and removed to Michigan, his adopted State, in 1836, and made the city of Detroit his home, and was honored by his fellow-citizens with various positions of honor and trust. When his native country became involved in war with Mexico he volunteered his services and became lieutenant-colonel of the First Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment, and served to the close of the war with credit and honor, and then turned again to the pursuits of peaceful life.

In 1861, when the angry clouds of civil war and fratricidal strife swept across the horizon of the Federal Union, indicating the then impending conflict and fearful struggle between the States—on the one hand for the perpetual maintenance of the Union, and on the other for the establishment of a separate confederacy of States within the territorial dominion of the Union, and yet independent of it—General WILLIAMS, true and faithful to the interests of his State and section, and in natural conformity to the feelings legitimately springing from his rearing, his kindred, friendships, associations, and interests, and patriotically loving the Union and holding in honored veneration the old flag, around which clustered so many glorious ancestral memories, voluntarily tendered his services to his country and accepted from the governor of his State the commission of brigadier-general of the State troops then enlisting and organizing for the war, and materially aided in this work. August 9, 1861, President Lincoln appointed him a brigadier-general of volunteers, and he at once entered upon the dangers and hardships of the soldier's life.

During the whole war General WILLIAMS was ever found in the

front ranks of the Union Army—where the rattle of musketry was thickest, the roar of artillery and the shrieking of bursting shells the loudest, and the gleam of the drawn sabers the brightest. He commanded a brigade, then a division, and then a corps; and participated in lhe battles of Winchester, Cedar Mountain, Antietam, Chancellorsville, Gettysburgh, and in those of the campaign of General Sherman from Dalton to Atlanta, and of "Sherman's march to the sea," and subsequently in North Carolina. On January 12, 1865, he was brevetted a major-general "for marked ability and energy," &c., and was honorably mustered out of the service on January 15, 1866. In this fiery ordeal, which tried men's souls, General WILLIAMS proved himself a true soldier and gentleman in the broadest sense of the terms—intelligent, energetic, earnest, and faithful, cool, brave, and chivalrous, kind, generous, and magnanimous.

For four long and eventful years he followed the flag of the Union, "the emblem of her chosen land," and at the end "beheld the flag, my flag, the stars and stripes, the eagle and the shield, waving in everlasting honor above all hate or fear," and lived to see all the States occupying their normal places in the Federal Union under the one Constitution, an undivided country, a united people, and an indestructible Union of sovereign States under one imperishable Constitution, to his patriot heart and hopes a grand and glorious consummation. So may it prove to all our hearts, hopes, and realizations.

Since the war General WILLIAMS has served his country in various important positions, always with marked ability, energy, and success, and closed his life while a member of the House.

General WILLIAMS's life has been an exceedingly eventful, interesting, and instructive one. Glance at its prominent events: a lawyer, judge of probate for his county, alderman and recorder of his city, proprietor and editor of the Detroit Daily Advertiser, lieutenant-colonel of the First Michigan Volunteer Infantry in the Mexican war, postmaster and a member of the board of education of his city,

a brigadier-general and by brevet a major-general in the Union Army, a commissioner to adjust the military claims of Missouri, a candidate for governor, a minister resident to the Republic of Salvador, and a member of the Forty-fourth and Forty-fifth Congresses. In every place and at all times his life was active, earnest, and consistent, and his services were well-timed, practical, and eminently useful.

His heroism and his services will be traced by future historians in charming colors and loving terms. He has founded a family name which will live in sacred remembrance for years to come.

It was my good pleasure to meet General WILLIAMS in social, business, and official relations. I held him in highest esteem; and always found him genial, pleasant, kind, warm-hearted, generous, and magnanimous—a splendid specimen of the true American gentleman, citizen, soldier, and official, the legitimate growth of our grand country and unequaled and peculiar system of government.

ADDRESS OF MR. PLUMB, OF KANSAS.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Senate appropriately rests from its ordinary employments to pay the last mournful tribute to an honored and lamented public servant. The State from which I come shares in the high appreciation with which the nation at large regarded the character and services of the late Representative, as well as in the universal sorrow which his death has occasioned. The infancy of Kansas was passed amid political turmoil and civil and military strife; her admission into the Union was contemporaneous with the commencement of that gigantic struggle in which the fate of the nation was long suspended as in a balance, and into which she entered with youthful ardor, but with matured and resolute purpose. For the prominent and successful leaders in that conflict no State cherishes a warmer admiration or a profounder sense of gratitude. The spoken

names of the living and the recital of their patriotic achievements excite unbounded enthusiasm, while sorrow for the heroic dead is sincere and poignant.

Another circumstance justifies me in participating briefly in these melancholy but grateful services. Events had thrown General WILLIAMS into intimate, I think I may truthfully add affectionate, association with a considerable circle of citizens of my own State temporarily resident here—men some of whom have rendered conspicuous public service in field and in council, and all of whom testify in ardent terms to the singular integrity and sweetness of character and disposition that belonged to their dead friend. Through them I knew him only slightly, but their concurrent testimony left no room for doubt as to the value of those qualities which were illustrated throughout a long and active career as lawyer and magistrate, writer, soldier, and statesman.

Mr. President, if we may not hope to escape the common destiny of the human race, we may reasonably indulge a choice as to the circumstances and surroundings under and amid which the inevitable summons shall come to us. The man who falls upon the field of battle, offering up his life for his country and his convictions, leaves to his kindred and friends a precious heritage of patriotic and glorious memories as a solace to their affliction. The fame of the statesman who sinks beneath the burden of arduous and useful services in the national councils is affectionately commemorated by his late associates amid the tearful sympathies of a whole people. It was the rare felicity of our late friend to discharge a great variety of public duties with scrupulous fidelity. Experienced in two wars and illustrious in one, he brought to the prosecution of his labors here mature years, ripened judgment, unquestioned purity of purpose; and his death leaves us an example of republican simplicity and sterling elements of character well worthy of our admiration and imitation.

Address of Mr. Maxey, of Texas.

Mr. President: The characteristics of every age may be gathered by the historian and political philosopher from the utterances of those who hold the public ear in that age. Ours I assume to be essentially materialistic. Material progress moves the statesman, the philosopher, and the citizen. It is an age in which the telegraph impresses itself. Thoughts must be presented in the fewest words consistent with clearness. No theory obtains recognition simply because it is presented or has the approval of men of recognized ability. It is judged upon its merits, and such merit must be proven by inexorable logic. The whole world has received impetus in thought and action from steam and telegraph, and the world moves as it never moved before. A man may play his part on the public stage and play it well. He is sent by his people to Congress. He receives their plaudits—dies—the sod closes over him—a brief eulogy is pronounced—and that is all and the last of him. The world rushes on. "The king is dead! Long live the king!" Well, he was a good man, poor fellow. Who will be his successor? Such is life; and of the grandest of them all, the American triumvirs, the history of each may be briefly written—

> But yesterday, the word of Cæsar might
> Have stood against the world: now lies he there,
> And none so poor to do him reverence.

This is a cold, hard age; but for all that, underneath our selfishness there is a warm place within our hearts for such a man as Alpheus S. Williams.

I beg you, Senators, for a little while to listen to a recital of the good deeds of one late of our number, a good man now gathered to his fathers. General Alpheus S. Williams was no ordinary man. Quiet, unostentatious, unobtrusive, he was by force of merit kept

almost constantly in important official position from early manhood to the close of a long and useful life. He was a man of culture. Graduating at Yale, and completing his course as a student of law at that university, he improved the years of early manhood by travel in Europe, acquainting himself with the political institutions and social organizations of the Old World, and was thus the better prepared to begin the great battle of life in democratic America. He settled in Michigan when twenty-six years of age, and entered upon the practice of law, in which he was eminently successful.

In 1846 the war ensued between the United States and Mexico, and on the 18th day of October, 1847, he was enrolled as lieutenant-colonel of the First Michigan Volunteers. He served with his regiment from January to June, 1848, and was honorably mustered out of the service with it at Detroit in July of that year. General WILLIAMS thus began that military career in which he afterward became illustrious, and in that same school which, during the last war, furnished such splendid military genius and daring to the Federal and Confederate armies as made them famous throughout the world. Among the grand results of the Mexican war not the least are the military training and martial spirit it infused into the people. I had occasion once to say in an address to the veterans of that splendidly conducted war, unsurpassed in conduct and results, that "here the school opened which in two years turned out the best educated army in the science and practice of war the world ever saw."

The alumni of this *alma mater* in the aftertime, from honest conviction, espoused opposing sides, and conducted the war of giants on a scale of grandeur suited to the combatants, with a skill and courage unequaled in ancient or modern times, and with a fealty and devotion to the sides they espoused at once the badge of honor and brevet of manhood nobility. The true soldier, the world over, honors the man who is true to his principles. General WILLIAMS never forgot the comrades with whom he had served in Mexico. His speech

to the veterans of Michigan at Kalamazoo, June 19, 1877, is a model of purity and of kindly feeling toward them. He was at his death one of the vice-presidents of the National Association of Veterans of the Mexican War, and had been so from the organization of that honorable and influential society.

When the great civil war began, General WILLIAMS, in April, 1861, was appointed by the governor of Michigan brigadier-general of the troops of the State. He commanded the camp of instruction near Detroit until September, 1861, when, having accepted the commission of brigadier-general in the United States volunteer service, he entered upon the active duties of that command. From October, 1861, till the last of July, 1865, he was continuously in command of a brigade, a division, or an Army corps on active service in the field. He received January 12, 1865, the brevet of major-general "for marked ability and energy." Having repaired to his home at Detroit to await the further orders of the government, he was called on the 25th of September following to the command of the Military District of Arkansas. He was honorably mustered out of the service January 15, 1866.

During his military service in the late civil war General WILLIAMS participated in fourteen different engagements; among them, the battles of Antietam, Chancellorsville, and Gettysburgh, and he was also engaged in the campaigns in Georgia and the Carolinas and on Sherman's "march to the sea." Such is a brief, unusually clear sketch from the military history of General WILLIAMS, for which I am indebted to the courtesy of General E. D. Townsend, Adjutant-General of the Army. But this sketch does not tell, no tongue nor pen can tell, of the long nights of his sleepless watchfulness, of the patient and untiring care for the health and comfort of the men of his command, of the dark days of gloom and despondency that burdened his stout heart during all these long and eventful years between the events of Sumter and Appomattox. He who was

intrusted with command on either side best knows by his own experience.

Happily for the country the grand and tragic events of that period have passed into history, and are remembered in bitterness no more by the true soldier, whether he wore the blue or the gray. General WILLIAMS was a noble type of the citizen soldeir. He was the soldier in war, the civilian in peace. Recognizing that the soldiers of the two great contending armies gave the highest evidence mortal man can give of the absolute sincerity of conviction, he esteemed it when the war was over his highest, as it was to him a pleasing, duty to exercise all his great influence to secure a real peace and fraternal union on a solid and enduring basis. To this end his energies were directed from the close of the war till his death, and that his efforts were appreciated I have but to remind the Senate of his great personal popularity with his associates of the House of Representatives from every section of the Union and of every shade of politics.

A Democrat of the strictest sect, he had the knightly courtesy of a cultured gentleman, who recognized in debate that honest men may honestly differ. A man of broad catholic though decided views, as a legislator he commanded the respect of all. Occupying the delicate and laborious position of chairman of the Committee for the District of Columbia, he gave universal satisfaction. The resolutions adopted by the people of the District at his death show their high appreciation of his character. One of those resolutions are in these words:

> *Resolved*, That as a patriot his example cannot die; as a gentleman his character was without blemish; as a soldler his glorious record will not be forgotten by his countrymen; and as a citizen and legislator, always ready to recognize and perform his duties, his memory will be warmly cherished.

I remember a few years ago the proposition for the reduction of the Army, while not in any proper sense a political question, had divided the House on nearly party lines. General WILLIAMS listened

to the appeals of the Democrats of my own State, and the accompished Democratic Delegate from the Territory of Montana, selected by the Territorial Delegates to champion their cause, pleading with Congress not to strip their people of their meager defense and expose the settlers along the frontier to Mexican banditti and the savage torch and scalping-knife of the Indian, and these appeals were not in vain. Firmly convinced of the justness of their cause, he followed his convictions regardless of personal consequences, and I honored him for it, and esteem it a high privilege that I can pay even this poor tribute to his memory.

One who made that appeal now sleeps his last sleep under the shadow of the Alamo, and General WILLIAMS, who came nobly to the rescue in the hour of need, rests peacefully on the banks of the river made classic by the heroes of 1812, and I, who wore the gray, shed a tear to the memory of him who in honor wore the blue.

General WILLIAMS was one of those noble men, however much he may have deplored what in his heart he believed the misguided actions of those opposed to him, who did not forget that in Holy Writ it is said:

> And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

He did not forget that the God of our fathers has promised—

> I will break the bow and the sword and the battle out of the earth, and will make them to lie down safely.

Honor be to such a man as General WILLIAMS, wherever born or wherever reared! And as a Senator from the State of Texas, speaking for her people, whose dead heroes live in song and story, and whose sons honor heroic deeds and love heroic men, I offer this tribute to the memory of ALPHEUS S. WILLIAMS, whose mortal remains repose beneath the green turf of his own loved Michigan, and whose requiem is the wild music of her lakes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on the resolutions offered by the Senator from Michigan.

The resolutions were unanimously adopted.

Mr. MAXEY. Mr. President, as a further mark of respect for the memory of the deceased, I move that the Senate do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; and (at five o'clock and fifteen minutes p. m.) the Senate adjourned.

MARCH 3, 1879.

The SPEAKER, by unanimous consent, laid before the House the following resolutions of the board of education of Detroit, Michigan, relative to the late Hon. ALPHEUS S. WILLIAMS; which were read and laid on the table.

CITY OF DETROIT, *March* 1, 1879.

DEAR SIR: The undersigned inspectors of the board of education of the city of Detroit, in compliance with a resolution of said board, herewith transmit to you a copy of a tribute to the memory of the late Major-General ALPHEUS S. WILLIAMS, Representative in Congress from the first district of Michigan, adopted by said board and ordered entered of record on the journal of its proceedings.

With great respect, your obedient servants,

ROBT. E. ROBERTS,
C. A. KENT,
Special Committee.

Hon. SAMUEL J. RANDALL,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

IN MEMORIAM.

Major-General ALPHEUS S. WILLIAMS, Representative in Congress from the first district of Michigan, a former member of the board of education, and one of Detroit's most prominent, able, and useful citizens, who was identified with every interest promotive of the welfare of the city for the past forty-two years, suddenly departed this life while in the discharge of his duties in the city of Washington, December 21, 1878. A nation mourns the loss of one of the brave defenders and preservers of the Union—a hero gone; while his townsmen in the City of the Straits further deeply mourn the loss of a neighbor, friend, and companion, one who was ever faithful in the discharge of every trust confided to him; who, whether as a captain of a local military company maintaining the neutrality of the govern-

ernment on this frontier in the "Patriot War"; as lieutenant-colonel of the Michigan Regiment, participating in the war with Mexico, or corps commander in the war of the rebellion; as judge of probate for Wayne County; as a member of the board of education; as recorder or alderman in the municipal council, or representative in the council of the nation—he did all things well.

> Death makes no conquest of this conqueror,
> For now he lives in fame, though not in life.

As this city, State, and Union present durable monuments of the energy, public spirit, and patriotism, as well as constancy, devotedness, integrity, and fidelity in every official position he had filled, we record this memorial in justice to his memory, and as a most grateful tribute of sorrow and affectionate regard for one around whose name cluster associations of kindness, gentleness, generosity, charitableness, genial sociability, and all that go to mark the true gentleman.

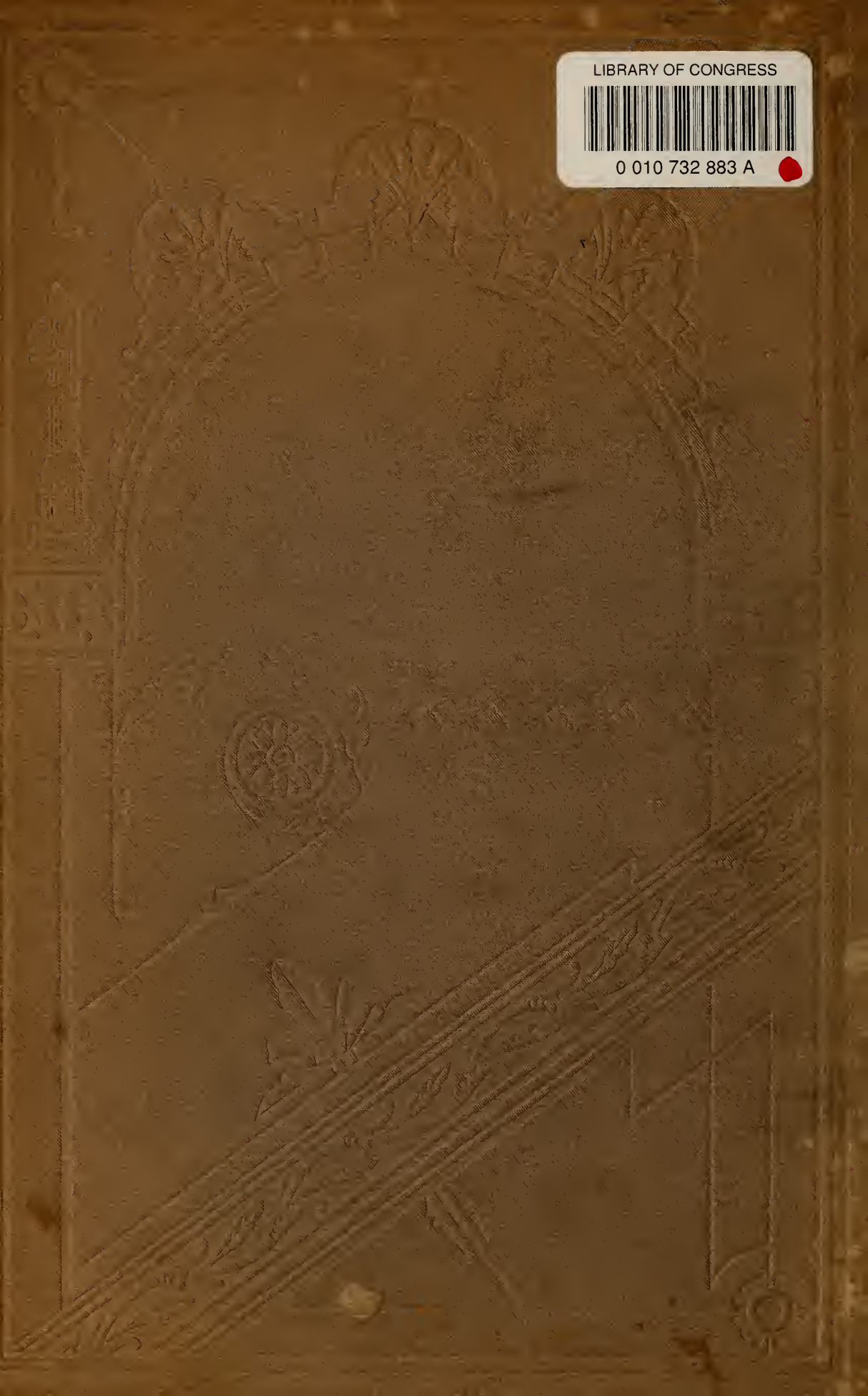
To the family and relatives of the deceased the board of education of the city of Detroit tender their sincere, deep sympathy in their great and irreparable affliction.

Adopted by the board of education of the city of Detroit, January 13, 1879.

ROBERT E. ROBERTS,
JOSEPH NICHOLSON,
WM. N. LADUE,
JOHN DICK,
FRANK FOLSOM,
Special Committee.

[SEAL.]
SAML. E. PITTMAN,
Secretary.

F. MORRELL, *President.*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